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Japan

Parachute Training Said Moving to Kadena Depot

OW2803100591 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese 28 Mar 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] At its meeting on 27 March, the Special Committee on the U.S. Military Bases [of the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly] (with Seiyu Sakihara as chairman) focused on petition cases and sought information from the prefectural executive department on how these cases are being handled. Referring to the issue of moving the site of parachute training, which is currently conducted at the Yomitan Auxiliary Airfield, Chisho Yohena, deputy director of the Governor's Executive Office [GEO], said: "We have heard from the [Naha] Defense Facilities Administrative Bureau [DFAB] that alternate locations have been narrowed down to a certain site now." Citing three U.S. forces facilities—Ieji-ma Island, (the area near) the Ginoza Dam, and the Kadena Ammunition Dump—he said: "We also have heard that the northern part [of the island] has been excluded from the selection now." Thus, he indicated that the training site most likely will be moved to the area where the Kadena Ammunition Dump is located.

Meanwhile, a Naha DFAB public relations official denied that the new site already had been "narrowed down" to a certain location, and said: "Many locations have been put forward as alternate sites, and we are still in the process of studying these locations, taking various factors into consideation."

Eitoku Iha (of the Social Democratic Party of Japan) demanded that "the prefectural government request that the training be suspended." In response to this demand, GEO Deputy Director Yohena said: "As the U.S. forces intend to continue this training, it will be necessary to move it to a new location. We have heard from the DFAB that the selection has been narrowed down to a certain site. Our understanding is that the work to coordinate with local residents to win their approval will be launched."

At the session, the committee also sought information from the prefectural government about the handling of such issues as the trench work for live-fire training at Camps Hansen and Schwab, as well as moving the urban combat training facilities to a new site. With regard to the trench work, GEO Director Oshiro said: "We have submitted requests to both the U.S. forces and the Defense Facilities Administration Agency that that work be suspended."

Need for Technical Aid to USSR Stressed

OW2703165991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japanese financial assistance would help the crumbling economy of the Soviet Union only if coupled with extensive technical aid, a visiting high-ranking official of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Wednesday.

Asked about Japan's reported willingness to extend financial aid to the Soviets, Salvatore Zecchini, OECD assistant secretary general, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE that for financial assistance to be really effective, it should be combined with extensive technical assistance for its transformation to a market economy.

"I do not know the details of the Japanese proposal, but I imagine that any sort of assistance, in order to be productive and effective, will follow the lines of economic policy orientation that we discussed in the study," Zecchini said.

The Paris-based organization, together with three other international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), released an in-depth study on the Soviet economy last year, concluding that "additional financial resources would be of little or no lasting value" without price liberalization, deregulation, and other major economic reforms.

With less than one month to go before the planned visit by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Japan, the Japanese Government is reportedly positive about economic cooperation to the Soviets once the territorial issue of the four small islands off Hokkaido is settled.

Zecchini, currently on a five-day visit to Tokyo for talks with officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Finance Ministry, and other government agencies, also pressed for quicker transition of the Soviet economy to a market-oriented one.

"The Soviet economy cannot develop by remaining in an intermediate stage between a centrally planned system and a market- based system," he said.

Also a Director of the Center for Cooperation with the European Economies in Transition (CCEET), affiliated with the 24-member OECD, Zecchini also said the Soviet Union is one of the beneficiaries of an extensive program launched by his center, which includes economic policy assistance, technical aid, and training of officials. But he flatly ruled out the possibility that the Soviet Union will join the OECD, a club of the West's rich nations.

"You know the OECD is an organization of advanced industrial economies, based on a market system. The USSR economy, in all these accounts, is still some distance from the characteristics that prevail among the members of the OECD," he said.

South Koreans Cool to Gorbachev's Japan Visit

OW2703041591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0126 GMT 27 Mar 91

["'South Koreans Cool to Gorbachev's Visit to Japan' (By Kim Chang-Yong); the second in a series of stories on Japanese-Soviet ties"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Seoul, March 27 KYODO—While Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Tokyo, and the Soviet-Japanese territorial dispute many hope it will solve, have been front-page news in Japan almost every day since the Persian Gulf war ended, the April 16-19 tour has stirred little excitement in South Korea.

Government officials here, clearly disappointed that Gorbachev will not be stopping in Seoul, profess to find only narrow significance in the first visit by a Kremlin leader to Japan.

The South Korean mass media, for their part, have given the story little space.

Most analysts here see the visit as giving Moscow and Tokyo a chance to solve major problems between their two countries, but as having little effect on the broader regional situation.

"Gorbachev's summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu...will touch on regional and global issues but focus on their own questions," Assistant Foreign Minister Yi Chong-pin said.

The Soviet Union is in dire need of yen to ease the consumer goods shortages threatening its reform policies, while Japan is trying to make the most of this situation to win the return of four Soviet-held islands off its northernmost main island of Hokkaido, Yi said.

The dispute over the islands—occupied by Soviet troops at the end of World War II in 1945—has blocked the two countries from concluding a peace treaty.

Western diplomats here do not rule out the possibility that the Soviet Union might seek a more stable balance of power in Northeast Asia in cooperation with Japan to avert any regional conflict, which would be yet another burden on the struggling Soviet economy.

"Japan and the Soviet Union, which feel more isolated from the U.S.-led post-Persian Gulf war order, may move toward closer ties in both political and economic terms and pursue a louder say in regional affairs. Yet Japan will not act in complete ignorance of American interests," one Seoul-based diplomat said.

South Korean Government officials are more interested, naturally enough, in any discussions Gorbachev and Kaifu may have on Korean affairs.

The region has seen dramatic changes since the end of the cold war, with former arch-enemies Seoul and Moscow establishing relations last September, and Pyongyang and Tokyo now holding talks on normalization.

South Korea and the United States have urged Tokyo not to normalize ties with Pyongyang until North Korea agrees to international inspections of its nuclear facilities amid speculation that it is building a large reactor in Yongbyon, 40 kilometers north of Pyongyang, capable of reprocessing used nuclear fuel into weapons-grade plutonium.

Pyongyang has linked the signing of such an agreement with international inspection of bases in South Korea, where it says the U.S. has stationed nuclear weapons.

North and South Korea themselves have held three rounds of prime ministerial talks since last year—though Pyongyang called off a fourth round planned in February—and the South Korean administration of President No Tae-u is eager to see Moscow, traditionally one of North Korea's key allies, pressure Pyongyang to improve its ties with Seoul.

South Korea has promised to provide the Soviet Union with 3 billion U.S. dollars in long-term loans, but has held off on delivering the aid due to differences over the form of payment.

Seoul intends to provide about half the money this year and the rest by 1993, while Moscow is asking for all of it this year.

South Korean scholars expect some sort of comment at the summit on North-South Korean relations, saying better Seoul-Pyongyang ties would benefit both the Soviets—by making it easier to improve their ties with the capitalist south—and the Japanese, by smoothing their talks with the communist North.

"It is likely that they will call for progress in North-South dialogue," Prof. Chae Pyong-chil at Seoul's Yonsei University said. Any comment from Gorbachev and Kaifu, however, would be "just a neutral statement of general principles," not one-sidedly favorable to Seoul, he said.

He said the two leaders are unlikely to criticize the North Korean Government at a time when Japan is holding talks with it on the establishment of diplomatic relations and the Soviet Union is trying to mend fences with its longtime ally, strained by the establishment of Pyongyang-Seoul ties.

"The feeble leaders, both facing aggressive challenges, do not appear to have much time to spend on regional issues or particulars of the Korean issue," Chae said.

They will try hard to strengthen their domestic positions "by resolving long-standing bilateral problems instead of the risky Korea question," he said.

Kaifu, lacking a firm power base in Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, has come under fire for his handling of Japan's response to the Persian Gulf war, while Gorbachev has come under fire from both conservatives and radicals amid a collapsing economy and worsening ethnic strife.

"Kaifu, with his political future at stake, is expected to make all-out efforts to regain" the disputed islands off Hokkaido, Chae said. While the return of the islands would be a political bonanza for Kaifu, the prospect of closer Japanese-Soviet ties worries South Korean businessmen.

Seoul's two-way trade with Moscow almost doubled last year to 1.7 billion dollars, and South Korean companies are not eager to see a flood of Japanese businessmen descending on Moscow to compete for contracts to develop Siberia or supply consumer products.

Southeast Asia 'Fears' on Gorbachev Visit Noted

OW2803024391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0201 GMT 28 Mar 91

["'S.E. Asia Fears Soviets May Divert Flow of Japanese Money'—(Editor's note: This is the third in a series of stories on Japan-Soviet ties.) by Masanori Kikuta"—XINHUA headline]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 28 KYODO—Southeast Asian countries hope Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's visit to Japan will cement bilateral ties and ensure regional security, but they worry Gorbachev may lure Japanese money from Asia to the Soviet Union, regional diplomats and analysts say.

The April 16-19 visit is "a test case of how far the Soviet Union will go in demonstrating that it is serious about peace and security in Asia," said Amitav Acharya, senior lecturer at the National University of Singapore's Political Science Department.

"The way he can impress the ASEAN countries is by making substantive concessions on the northern territories issue and reducing the conflict with Japan, by making a substantive proposal regarding arms control in the Asia-Pacific area, and by making some initiatives on the Cambodian issue," he said.

Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Brunei make up ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

An ASEAN diplomat based in Kuala Lumpur said the significance of the visit, the first to Japan by a Kremlin leader, is that "one more major barrier will come down" in the region's political front.

The diplomat, who declined to be identified, and other experts said Tokyo's rapport with Moscow will complete the linking of three major players in the area, which began with China's rapprochement with Japan and the Soviet Union.

Japan's effort to establish lasting peace with the Soviet Union by concluding a peace treaty is an "important pioneering" step, and Southeast Asian nations "are looking to what example Japan will show," the diplomat said.

Bilveer Singh, director of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), said Gorbachev has kept a low profile in Asia because of lackluster Tokyo-Moscow ties as well as his domestic problems.

"If Soviet-Japanese relations improve, then I think ... it may mean a reconfirmation that there is a new postwar international order emerging in the world," said Singh, who is also political scientist at the National University of Singapore. This is "because the cold war in this part of the world has meant Japanese-Soviet rivalry," he said.

Juwono Sudarsono, dean of the University of Indonesia's Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, said the visit "is the beginning of a transition period for the Japanese to accept the Soviet Union ... no longer as an enemy but as a cooperating partner."

That cooperation, however, could mean Japan turns more of its attention and money to the Soviet Union.

Diplomats and analysts said many Southeast Asian countries are worried that Japan, already squeezed by massive funding commitments to the Persian Gulf war, might reduce Asian aid and investment in favor of greater investment in the Soviet Union.

"What we are afraid of is that the Soviet Union with its natural resources in the Far East and the Pacific areas, which are very close to Japan, is trying to attract Japanese capital to invest in these areas," said a Philippines official who asked for anonymity.

"During his trip, Gorbachev will try again to attract more Japanese investment to Far Eastern Siberia," the official said.

"My opinion is that he is not likely to get a lot," he said. "In this regard, the Soviet Union poses as a competitor to ... ASEAN in terms of luring Japanese investors. "The Soviet Union is an Asian power itself but it is also a developing country like us in ASEAN," the official said. "As a developing country, the Soviet Union needs Japanese capital."

Southeast Asian diplomats and analysts were divided about the prospects of the northern territories dispute over four Soviet-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Since the Soviet Union has in the past shown "many gestures for peace, it poses a difficult question to Japan's response," a veteran Thai watcher of Asian affairs said.

"If Japan still insists on ... sovereignty over the four disputed islands and is not prepared for a negotiation at all, Japan would be vulnerable to international blame of not being conducive to the world detente," said Khien Theerawit, director of Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Asian Studies in Bangkok.

As the Soviet Union reduces its military presence in the region, "Japan should also respond in this respect," he said.

"How about an offer that if the Soviets agree to return sovereignty over two islands now, Japan would ask the U.S. to withdraw some of its troops from Japan in the next three, five or 10 years?"

With Gorbachev in a fix, "I think it is not yet the (right) time to return the islands," said Soedjati Djiwandono, an Asia-Pacific affairs expert at the Centre of Strategic and International Studies in Jakarta. But others said Gorbachev will not come to Tokyo empty-handed because he needs a diplomatic breakthrough to shore up his shaky domestic position.

Japanese press reports have said Tokyo may propose that the Soviets return the two smaller islands, in line with a 1956 joint declaration which restored diplomatic ties with Moscow, and then negotiate the reversion of the other two.

"Generally I'm quite hopeful because otherwise I don't think Gorbachev would want to stake his prestige and stature and to be on record as a failed trip ... (which) is going to undermine his domestic standing," SIIA's Singh said. "Gorbachev needs a foreign policy success. It's a necessity at home," he said.

The University of Indonesia's Juwono agreed. " The question is when and in what terms."

Without a resolution to the islands issue, Japan will view closer ties between ASEAN and the Soviet Union as hostile, a Philippine expert said, referring to ASEAN's move to include Moscow as one of its dialogue partners.

"A strong interaction between ASEAN and the Soviet Union will not undermine Japan's position in the area," said Artemio Palongpalong, professor of Southeast Asian politics at the University of the Philippines-Asian Center. "Japan has established itself as a partner of ASEAN," he said. "In terms of aid, the Soviet Union cannot match Japan."

The anonymous ASEAN diplomat said that whatever the solution to the territorial dispute, it "must not be at the expense of the region," which has maintained "good and stable" relations with Japan despite its World War II atrocities.

Cambodia's Son Sann Urges Limiting SRV Ties

OW2803113191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0731 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Cambodian resistance leader Son Sann on Thursday urged Japan and other countries to curtail their business ties with Vietnam to compel it to adopt a more flexible position in the Cambodian peace process.

"I would like to appeal to all the friendly countries ... to abstain a year or two from giving the wrong signal to Hanoi or encouraging it to remain uncompromising," the 79-year-old noncommunist guerrilla leader told reporters.

Son Sann, who heads the smallest of the three factions allied against the Vietnamese-installed and supported government in Phnom Penh, made the remarks in a meeting with the press on the fourth day of his six-day visit to Japan.

"I asked (Japan) to maintain the embargo like the U.S.A.," he said without elaborating on whether he made the request to Japanese Government officials or to business leaders.

A Foreign Ministry official said that in meetings with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, Son Sann referred only indirectly to Japan's persuading Hanoi and Phnom Penh to become more conciliatory. "He did not specifically ask Japan to maintain the embargo," the official said.

Japan is Vietnam's largest nonsocialist trading partner, with two-way trade reaching some 80 billion yen in 1990, or double the figure for the previous year. In addition, Tokyo subtly gave a green light to Japanese enterprises that want to boost business ties with Vietnam after Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach visited Tokyo last September.

Son Sann called it "a dangerous political game" to indulge Hanoi and Phnom Penh as they pursue foreign investment, an end to the U.S.-initiated economic embargo imposed when Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978, and international recognition for the Phnom Penh administration.

He said countries that upgrade their economic or political ties with Hanoi and Phnom Penh "shamelessly condemn the Cambodian people to suffer a continued state of war" by removing any incentive for the two governments to compromise with the resistance coalition.

Neither has accepted a comprehensive peace settlement worked out last year by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council. The plan has been endorsed by the tripartite resistance coalition.

Son Sann, who serves as prime minister of the tripartite coalition's government-in-exile, gave a cautious appraisal of a set of proposals Japan presented to the leaders of the three guerrilla groups in Beijing earlier this month, which were aimed at removing obstacles to Phnom Penh's acceptence of the U.N. plan.

He called the proposals, which have not been made public, "a very good move, but not sufficient." He declined to elaborate.

Foreign Ministry officials said the proposals are essentially an attempt to ease Phnom Penh's reservations over a part of the U.N. plan which calls for demobilization and disarmament of all four factions before the holding of elections.

The proposals offer assurances that the U.N. would verify the ceasefire and disarmament of forces so that no faction would be able to take advantage of the situation and seize power. Phnom Penh questions the intentions of the militarily powerful Khmer Rouge faction in this regard.

They also address a deadlock over Phnom Penh's insistence that a final peace plan explicitly refer to the mass killings committed by the Khmer Rouge during its rule over Cambodia from 1975-78. Alluding to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's upcoming visit to Japan on April 16-19, Son Sann said, "I have told my Japanese friends that the time is very good now for the move of Japan." He urged Japan to ask the Soviet leader "to stop giving arms and ammunition to the Phnom Penh regime" and to encourage Vietnam's and Phnom Penh's acceptance of the U.N. peace plan.

Son Sann, a former Cambodian prime minister, also said he hopes Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama would try to win Vietnam over to a more reconciliatory position when he visits Hanoi in the near future.

Meanwhile, the frail, bespectacled resistance leader took issue with what he said were media reports implying that last month's military overthrow of Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chuhawen's government was a blow to the resistance coalition.

"The new government is very good for us," he said. "The new military authorities in Thailand understand us very well." Son Sann said he is assured Thailand will continue to follow the decade-old Cambodia policy of the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) "to help us to liberate our country."

Meets With Business Leaders

OW2803052891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0439 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Cambodia's resistance leader Son Sann met representatives of Japan's Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) Thursday to seek economic help in rebuilding his country's economy.

Son Sann, prime minister of the Coalition Resistance Government fighting the Phnom Penh Government, arrived in Tokyo on March 25 to meet Japanese government and business officials.

Talks this week with Japanese representatives will include discussions of Japan's peace initiative for Cambodia and economic aid for the country once the 12-year-old civil war ends. Japan has prepared a plan to help for the UN effort for breaking the deadlock on ending the conflict in Cambodia.

Son Sann told the Keidanren representatives that the Cambodian Government must control runaway inflation and rid itself of political and economic corruption. The prime minister also asked for Japanese technological know-how and technical exchanges for Cambodians to study in Japan. Keidanren officials promised to cooperate with him.

Ministry To Allow Foreign Residents To Teach

OW2203184691 Tokyo KYODO in English 1459 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 22 KYODO—The Education Ministry on Friday opened the door for foreign residents of Japan to become "staff instructors" in Japanese public schools beginning in April 1992. The measure, seen as a step forward for a number of Korean residents of Japan desiring education careers, however, would still deny the status of "teacher" to those who do not hold Japanese citizenship.

The ministry directive instructs education boards nationwide to provide certification to foreign residents, pending qualification examinations this summer, and assure them of stable status and equal treatment, including in wages, on a par with Japanese nationals.

Friday's decision was in accordance with a memorandum on the legal status and treatment of Japan's Korean ethnic minority exchanged at a meeting between Japanese and South [Korean] foreign ministers in Tokyo last January.

Under the new measure, foreign instructors will be limited to education guidance and will be allowed to conduct some classes.

Foreign residents, however, will not be able to be officially hired as "teachers" at public schools because of the nationality requirement in public service workers laws, according to the ministry directive. The door for promotion to teaching staff director, principal, or similar administrative positions will also remain closed.

At present, only two foreign residents in the country—a Korean in Nagano Prefecture and a Norwegian in Nara Prefecture—have been certified as instructors.

A total of 289 foreign residents, including 238 resident Koreans, currently hold teaching licences after graduating from university and passing the government-sponsored qualification tests.

To put the ministry's directive into practice, prefectural education boards will revise manuals for recruiting would-be instructors for the examinations to be held in July and August.

Chu In-sik, a third-generation resident of Korean descent, has been refused three times by the educational board in Fukuoka Prefecture in his bid to be certified as a teacher, but called Friday's action a step forward.

The 25-year-old Korean, however, criticized the ministry for holding onto its "last fortress" by refusing to consider foreign residents for full-fledged teaching positions in Japanese public schools.

Chu said the ministry failed to address the fundamental problem involving the legal status of Korean residents in Japan by failing to go further with the directive.

Trade With PRC, Middle East Said Recovering

OW2803132791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1208 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Japan's trade with China and the Middle East is coming back on track as a result of Beijing's launch this year of a new five-year economic plan and a rebound in business with the Middle East, the Japan Foreign Trade Council said Thursday.

Export contracts signed with China in February by Japan's major trading houses recorded a sharp rise for the second consecutive month, rocketing 93.0 percent to 41.5 billion yen.

Transactions were brisk against a backdrop of higher foreign currency reserves in China, buttressed in part by the end of what the council called a period of "economic adjustment" and the country's 6 percent economic growth target.

Steel and car exports to China were especially brisk, council officials said.

Contracts for import from China jumped 35.5 percent, rising more than 10 percent for the eighth straight month.

Although export contracts with the Middle East in February sagged 5.8 percent to 58.6 billion yen, they were up 36.3 percent from the month before.

Deals with countries other than Iraq and Kuwait recovered, led by vigorous steel and machinery exports to Iran.

Total export contracts, which were down for the fourth month in a row, fell 10.1 percent to 941.4 billion yen.

An official said the notable decline in contracts for plant exports to Southeast Asia was a reaction to the robust increase during the previous year. "Underlying demand in Southeast Asia is still very strong," he said.

A drop in metal and lumber imports was partly responsible for the 2.5 percent fall in total import contracts, which totaled 1,071.1 billion yen.

It was the second straight month in which import contracts dipped. The last time total import contracts declined for two consecutive months was in May of last year.

GATT Members Agree To Present Plans on Cuts

OW2703072591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0705 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Japan, the United States, Canada, and the European Community (EC) have agreed to present plans to reciprocally abolish tariffs on certain products under the 108-nation Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, Japanese Government sources said Wednesday.

According to the plan proposed by Canada, the negotiators will present a list of conditions, such as on which specific items they intend to abolish tariffs, the members required to participate, and the time necessary for abolition, at the next GATT meeting scheduled for late next month, the sources said.

They said the plan is strongly supported by the United States as it is trying to show Congress some apparent progress in the talks before the end of May, when Congress decides whether or not to extend President George Bush's "fast-track" authority over the negotiations.

The authority allows Bush to negotiate trade agreements without their being amended by Congress, so as not to unwind those of a sensitive nature.

The sources said the items on the list will be more specific than, for instance, just saying "steel," and for each item, the feasibility of the proposed tariff abolition, the major producers who would participate, and the period necessary to completely abolish tariffs in a step-by-step manner, will be drawn up by members.

By clarifying the differences between countries, the plan aims to bring the negotiations down to a more concrete level, the sources said.

Currently, the United States and Canada are each proposing to reciprocally abolish tariffs on some 1,000 items, while Japan is suggesting 3,210 items. The EC, however, is taking a negative stance on the idea except for some fields such as pharmaceuticals, according to the sources.

The four-year-old Uruguay round of world trade talks, initially scheduled to end last December, failed to do so in Brussels, due to a dispute over agricultural subsidies between the U.S. and the EC.

Official Expects Dollar To Dominate G-7 Meeting

OW2803123391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1136 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official said Thursday the dollar's recent strength is likely to provide the major focus at a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) finance ministers and central bankers slated for late April in Washington.

"The foreign exchange issue will be one of topics on the agenda whether (participants) like it or not," the official said to reporters on condition of anonymity.

In the world currency markets, the U.S. currency has gained substantially against the yen and the German mark since the end of the Persian Gulf war amid optimism about the U.S. economy.

The dollar has strengthened notably against the mark recently due to fading confidence in the German economy and political unrest in the Soviet Union.

The Finance Ministry official voiced concern about the yen's recent weakness, which he said has been caused chiefly by factors working against the mark. "I can't stand for seeing the yen being pulled down along with the mark," the official said.

The G-7 meeting will get together top finance officials from the seven industrial nations, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States.

Kaifu Urges Dispatch of Aid Personnel Overseas

OW2803065391 Tokyo KYODO in English 0510 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Thursday renewed calls for Japan to contribute to the world with personnel, not just with finances. "If Japan cannot make contributions other than in funds, we cannot say we have completed our responsibility in the international community," Kaifu said at the inaugural meeting of his advisory panel on Japan's international cooperation.

Nineteen members out of a total 21 attended the meeting of the new panel. They elected Takuji Matsuzawa, former president of Fuji Bank, its chairman, officials said.

In its first meeting at the prime minister's official residence, Kaifu urged the members to fully discuss Japan's direction in diplomatic policies, the officials said. He called for debates on Japan's cooperation in UN activities, arms control, and disarmament, and the best ways to utilize the country's economic, scientific, and technical abilities.

Vice Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama told the panel about key elements of Japan's foreign policy and reported on the present international situation, the lessons from the Persian Gulf war, and the new international order.

Some members called for consideration of new views on the existing systems and customs to help implement ideas on diplomatic policy, officials said.

The establishment of the panel followed a rush of foreign criticism against Japan for doing nothing except contributing money during the Persian Gulf crisis. Japan pledged 11 billion dollars to assist the allied efforts to drive Iraqi troops out of Kuwait and 2 billion dollars in economic assistance to Jordan, Turkey, and Egypt. The country, however, did not send troops because of restraints under the pacifist Constitution which bans the country from using force to resolve international disputes.

Last year Kaifu promised to dispatch a 100- to 200-member medical team to the Gulf but he was unable to fulfill the promise.

Ministry Outlines Basic Ideas for Reforms

OW2703123791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1206 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—The Finance Ministry outlined Wednesday basic ideas for broad changes in Japan's financial system, under which it aims to join banking with the insurance, trust, and securities businesses, ministry sources said.

The scheme categorizes financial institutions in four basic types, commercial banks, trust banks, insurance companies, and securities companies, deleting specialized banks such as long-term credit banks allowed under the current system.

Under the ideas drafted in an effort to modernize the financial system, these financial institutions would be allowed to fully enter each others' business fields through subsidiaries, the sources said. But they noted that given possible effects on existing institutions, each subsidiary's business would be limited initially to ensure stability in the financial system.

The guidelines will be discussed by the financial system research council, an advisory body to the finance minister, in preparing a final report on financial reforms due in June, the sources said.

At present, the four financial industries and other institutions are tightly separated under the highly segmented financial system created after World War II.

With regard to banking, the guidelines define banks as institutions which offer intermediary financial services, opening the doors for "nonbanks" such as credit and leasing companies to step into the banking business.

In dealing with the three long-term credit banks specializing in long-term financing, the ministry intends to promote them to switch to commercial banks because their status as long-term financing institutions is declining as capital and money markets change rapidly. They are the Industrial Bank of Japan, the Nippon Credit Bank, and the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

According to the sources, the Bank of Tokyo, the only bank that specializes in foreign exchange services, would also be treated as in the case of the long-term credit banks.

With their insurance products increasingly featuring savings and deposit functions and their expanded lending activities, insurance companies would be built into the new financial system so that the insurance business can be opened up to other institutions in the future, the sources said.

Bill Drafted To Allow Commodities Fund Sales

OW2503153891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1205 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—The government on Monday drafted a bill that would lift a ban on commodities investment funds and protect investors from the risks such investments entail, government sources said.

The legislation, the result of talks among the Ministries of Finance, International Trade and Industry, and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, will be formally endorsed at a cabinet meeting Tuesday, they said.

If approved in the Diet, the bill will pave the way for offering commodities investment funds, or mutual funds that invest largely in commodities, for the first time in Japan.

Part of such funds could be invested in assets other than commodities, but their portions would be limited to up to 15 percent for government and municipal bonds and up to 30 percent for mortgage securities and time deposits.

Subscriptions can be accepted in the minimum unit of 100 million yen in general, but companies with sound experience in investing in commodities funds abroad can accept subscriptions in the minumum unit of 50 million yen.

According to the sources, the bill allows only commodities investment and trading companies to offer such funds while permitting the establishment of commodities investment consulting companies. Both companies must be granted related licenses and meet certain conditions such as minimum capital, asset, and staff requirements, they said.

Those doing business without licenses could face a penalty of up to 3 million yen or a prison term of up to three years.

According to the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, the commodities funds market is expected to grow to 500 billion yen in one or two years after the bill is enacted into law.

Official Dismisses Change in Monetary Policy

OW2503122891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 25 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official said Monday he does not see a need to change the current tight monetary policy in the short term.

"The Finance Ministry, for its part, has no plans to change its stance on (monetary) policy at all right now, and the Bank of Japan as a watchdog of inflation is not in a situation that requires it to change its stance substantially," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"Various voices are coming to me, but attention must be paid to future price movements," he said, citing uncertainty about the outlook of oil prices. "Can you say that there is not a speck of cloud over future oil supplies when Kuwaiti oil fields remain ablaze," the official said.

The official also stressed that the current tight monetary policy is part of the government's policy of holding down inflated land prices, in tandem with land taxation reform. "I don't believe that I have to change the direction of (monetary) policy" in the process of deliberations on land taxation reforms before the Diet, he said.

Agency To Streamline Rice Distribution Network

OW2803131891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The food agency has decided to streamline rice distribution through reorganization of wholesalers and retailers, agency officials said Thursday. The officials said the decision also is aimed at revitalizing competition among rice distributors.

Under the decision, the agency will promote mergers of small-sized distributors and encourage the entry of newcomers into the market, they said.

The agency will seek cooperation by the industry and local governments when three-year licenses for wholesalers and retailers come up for renewal in June, the officials said.

Under the current licensing system, wholesalers and retailers seeking renewal of their licenses are required to meet certain conditions, such as an annual volume of trading amounting to 4,000 tons.

The officials said 10 out of 283 wholesalers would fail to meet the requirements this year. The agency will not revoke the licenses of those wholesalers who fail to meet the requirements, but will instead ask local governments to help promote their mergers, they said.

They said the number of retailers whose trading volume falls short of the required amount has been on the decrease, and the agency will encourage entry of newcomers into the market.

The agency relaxed regulations on rice dealers in 1988, allowing retail shops and supermarket stores to sell rice. As a result, the number of rice retailers surged to about 92,000 nationally as of December last year, from about 86,000 in 1988.

Only six wholesalers have since obtained licenses to enter the market, the officials said.

Private Sector May Get Share of Space Business

OW2403125491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 24 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO—A government panel is discussing ways to transfer space technology to the private sector, government sources said Sunday.

While a number of private companies now manufacture equipment for the Japanese space program, all the rights to the technology are owned by the National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA).

Because of this, Japanese companies have had to turn down requests from international organizations and U.S. companies to use or buy Japanese rockets.

The government panel, set up by the Science and Technology Agency, which oversees NASDA, is discussing how much to charge private companies to buy state-owned technology and under what conditions they would be allowed to use state-owned rocket launchers and other facilities, the sources said.

The panel is also discussing ways to sell Japanese-developed rockets, engines, parts or space technology itself overseas.

The state's legal responsibility and compensation for any damages caused by private sector space activities in the future are also being discussed by the panel, the sources said.

Japan, with assistance from the United States, has developed space-related technology limited strictly to peaceful purposes.

Independent private sector space development is virtually banned, although a number of private firms are involved in national space projects. The companies hope, however, to provide technology to other nations, including the U.S., the sources said.

The government's moves to commercialize space technology were accelerated late last year after a request from the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intersat) and International Marine Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to use Japan's next generation rocket, the H-II, the sources said.

The international organizations asked Japan's first private rocket procurement firm, Rocket System, if the two-stage H-II, which NASDA calls its "main workhorse for the 1990s," could be used to launch their satellites in 1994 and 1995.

Also, U.S. rocket firms have asked Japanese manufacturers, such as Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Co., about the possibility of buying the liquid LE-5 engine, used in the second stage of the H-II rocket.

The sources said the U.S. needs cheap, reliable rockets such as the LE-5, adding that America's concentration on the space shuttle has distracted it from developing inexpensive new rockets.

Despite growing demand overseas for space technology, the government has so far been reluctant to allow exports, partly out of fears that Washington might use Japanese technology to launch military satellites, violating Tokyo's "peaceful use only" policy.

MITI To Remove Cement Industry Protection

OW2703072891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0630 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Wednesday it plans to remove the nation's cement industry from government protection in view of the recent construction boom. MITI officials said the plan will be put into effect after it is endorsed by an advisory panel on industrial restructuring problems at a meeting scheduled for mid-April.

Technically, the officials said, the cement industry will be removed from a list of recession-hit industries designated under the Law of Temporary Measures to Facilitate Industrial Structure Adjustment, which was enacted in 1987.

Under the law, the cement industry was eligible for low-interest loans from the government to diversify its business, the officials said. The removal of government protection will allow cement makers to expand their production facilities at their own discretion, they said.

The officials said the ministry plans to take the step in view of growing domestic demand for cement, spurred by a construction boom.

The cement industry was given government protection because of slow demand in the late 1980s.

The situation has changed since then, however, and demand for cement in 1990 is estimated to have surged 6.9 percent over the previous year to far exceed original projections of 84.11 million tons.

The bullish demand is expected to continue for years to come in view of the government's plan to increase investment in public works projects in accordance with an agreement reached in U.S.-Japanese negotiations under the Structural Impediments Initiative.

New High-Output Visible Laser Diode Developed

OW2803131491 Tokyo KYODO in English 0745 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—Toshiba Corp. said Thursday it has developed the world's highest-output continuous red visible laser diode promising to expand commercial applications in laser disks and various other memory devices.

Large increases in recording density for optical information memory devices and applications for medical equipment can be expected using the new laser diode, officials said. The company plans to commercialize the laser next year, the officials said.

Conventional laser diodes lose output power because electrons leak from the active layer, where electrons are collected and laser emission occurs, through the overlying composition layers which confine electrons in the active layer, they said.

Toshiba's prototype red-light device makes possible a maximum power output of 106 milliwatts, far higher than the roughly 30 milliwatt output power of the current devices used to read and write information on laser disks, the officials said.

Commercial lasers used in point-of-scale readers and laser printers have required an output of below 10 milliwatts. A milliwatt is one-thousandth of a watt.

Toshiba researchers cut the loss of power by adding a special chemical material to the overlying layer, making it more concentrated, which in turn, enabled a maximum output of 106 milliwatts with a wavelength of 690 nanometers. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter.

The new laser diode and smaller wavelength compared with current devices with a wavelength of 830 nanometers will allow more accurate recording and playback on memory devices, including cd-rom (compact disk read only memory devices) and optical measuring systems, the officials said.

North Korea

South General as Senior MAC Member Rejected

SK2703045891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 27 Mar 91

[South Korean Army "General" Cannot Be Recognized as Senior Member of "U.N. Forces" Side to MAC—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—The side of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers [CPV] to the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) today published the following statement denouncing the "U.N. Forces" side for paralyzing the major activities and function of the ceasefire-supervising organization:

The "U.N. Forces" side on March 25 tried to present to our side a paper "certifying" a South Korean Army "general" as its senior member to the MAC, in disregard of our side's opposition.

The KPA and CPV side had to immediately return the "certificate" as it could not recognize a South Korean Army "general" without any qualification as senior member of the "U.N. Forces" side to the MAC.

The South Korean Army does not belong to the "U.N. Forces" nor is it a signatory to the Korean Armistice Agreement.

Moreover, the South Korean Army doggedly opposed the signing of the Armistice Agreement.

Therefore, it is clear to anyone that a South Korean Army "general" cannot be senior member of the "U.N. Forces" side to the MAC, an organization supervising the execution of the Armistice Agreement signed between the Korea-China side and the "U.N. Forces."

It is quite contrary to the provision of the Armistice Agreement (AA) that the U.S. side "appointed" a South Korean Army "general" "senior member" of the "U.N. Forces" side.

Paragraph 20 of the AA stipulates that the Military Armistice Commission shall be composed of ten senior officers, five of whom shall be appointed by the "commander-in-chief", United Nations Command.

This means that a senior member to the MAC should be appointed from the "U.N. Forces," a contracting party of the Armistice Agreement, not from any side which is not a contracting party of the AA. This is only too self-evident truth.

We have so far permitted the U.S. ide bringing a South Korean Army "general" to the conference room of the MAC and sitting him before us. This was because we wanted to make the Armistice Agreement binding on the South Korean Army, too.

But, the South Korean Army "general" who is deprived of the prerogative of command by the U.S. Forces can never head the ceasefire-supervising organisation.

Prompted by the desire to ensure the correct implementation of the Armistice Agreement and the normal activities of the ceasefire-supervising organization, the Korea-China side has already notified the "U.N. Forces" side that a South Korean Army "general" can never be senior member of the "U.N. Forces" side to the MAC.

Meanwhile, the Korea-China side presented to the "U.N. Forces" side a flexible proposal that if the United States is to seat a South Korean Army "general" as our counterpart there should be at least a legal and institutional mechanism for that and that negotiations be held for that purpose.

Nevertheless, the "U.N. Forces" side created a serious situation by "appointing" a South Korean Army "general" without any qualification and authority its "senior member," in which it is impossible to exchange telephone messages and letters signed by the senior member and hold meetings of the MAC in the future.

The Korea-China side to the MAC bitterly denounces the "U.N. Forces" side for paralyzing the major activities and function of the ceasefire-supervising organization.

It is a premeditated provocation aimed at deliberately aggravating the tensions on the Korean peninsula for the U.S. side to have paralyzed the major function of the MAC

The U.S. side will have to bear full responsibility for all consequences arising therefrom.

Paper Comments on No Group, Team Spirit '91

SK2703104191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 27 Mar 91

["Heinous War Maniac Going Against Reunification"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—No Tae-u recently showed up at a unit of the South Korean puppet army participating in the "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres and instructed his underlings to actively propagandize at home and abroad the "significance and character" of the "Team Spirit" manoeuvres for a correct understanding, declaring that the manouevres would be continued.

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands his remarks as a bellicose outburst and shameless jargon.

The news analyst says:

It is a fact recognized by the world that the "Team Spirit" war game is an aggressive preliminary war and a test nuclear war for an attack on the northern half of the country in accordance with the U.S. imperialists' nuclear war strategy. How shameless he is in crying for propagandizing such criminal war game as "a good thing".

To ease confrontation and tension between the North and the South through dialogue and negotiation is an urgent task which brooks no further delay for the removal of the danger of war hanging over the head of the nation and for national reconciliation and unity and reunification.

The No Tae-u group, however, started the "Team Spirit" war exercises together with the U.S. imperialists, bringing the North-South dialogue to a rupture and leading the situation to the brink of war.

This is an anti-national criminal act which can never be justified.

Facts clearly show that "peace", "dialogue" and "reunification" over which No Tae-u is quite loud-mouthed are lies and there is no change in his criminal intention to gratify his wild ambition for "unification by prevailing over communism" by igniting a war against the North in league with the U.S. imperialists.

The whole nation which are anxiously waiting for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification will never pardon the No group which is bent on bringing the clouds of a fratricidal war, hand in glove with the aggressor.

Article Alleges U.S. 'Open Interference'

SK2803104791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 28 Mar 91

["U.S. Open Interference in Other's Internal Affairs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—All the imperialists are shameless interferers but there is no such high-handed interferer as the U.S. imperialists, says NODONG SINMUN in an article today.

The author of the article quotes the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song as teaching:

"In various parts of the world the U.S. imperialists are now interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, carrying out aggression and frantically preparing for a new war."

No continent, no region and no country of the world are beyond the reach of the U.S. interference today.

By interfering in the internal affairs of other countries the United States seeks to put them under its domination, expand the sphere of its influence and step up its reactionary global strategy.

It, first of all, perpetrates political interference without hesitation. In this, it concentates on realizing the "peaceful transition" strategy. Suffice it to recall that the United States persistently demands other countries, the socialist countries in particular, to accept the "multiparty system" and "pluralism".

Its hue and cry over the human rights problem is also an old game for political interference.

Whenever an opportunity presents itself, it obtrusively enough, behaves like "a judge of human rights" and even takes "sanctions" against certain countries on the charge of "human rights violation".

The U.S. interference in other's internal affairs is committed in some cases by a more camouflaged and crafty method such as ideological and cultural interference.

The U.S. imperialists abuse those countries which do not allow the infiltration of the degenerated and corrupt idea and culture of imperialism, branding them as "closed society".

The U.S. shameless interference in other's internal affairs can be seen in economy, too.

The U.S. imperialists try to force other countries to reform even their economic system on the pretence of "aid" and "cooperation."

Taking advantage of the difficulties some countries are undergoing in the building of a new society, the United States promises them "aid" on condition that they "liberalize economy". In this it seeks to win their favour as a "helper" and put them under their control and subjugation and thus revive its old position as a colonial plunderer.

Military intervention is the main method to which the United States still attaches importance in its interference in other's internal affairs.

Over the past four decades and more since the Second World War, the U.S. imperialists sent their aggressor troops to developing countries 185 times and involved itself in the plots to overthrow other governments more than 500 times, directly or indirectly.

By overthrowing progressive governments and replacing them with reactionary pro-American governments, the United States pursues to inveigle them into its military blocs and set up its military bases in those countries. And they work to train puppet troops in those countries and control them to use them as cannon fodder and shock-brigade in its aggression.

The true color of the U.S. imperialists as outrageous interferer can be found in its policy toward the DPRK.

The United States totally refuses the just reunification policies and overtures made by our republic, interfering in the reunification question, the internal affairs of our nation, and persists in its "two Koreas" plot and eggs the South Korean puppets on to fascism and war, confrontation and division.

The criminal acts of U. S. imperialism, the most shameless and high-handed interferer in other's internal affairs in our era, can never be pardoned.

Japan Urged To Ignore 'Other's Entreaties'

SK2703104591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1017 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—At the second round of the full-dress talks between the government delegations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan, we could see in the assertions of the sides that there is commonness in the views in the main issues, that is, the DPRK-Japan relations must be normalized, human losses and material damages inflicted upon the Korean people by Japan be compensated, the legal status of Koreans in Japan be improved and the question of Japanese spouses be solved, but that there were differences on the ways of resolving these issues, says an article of the press group which accompanied the DPRK Government delegation which is carried in NODONG SINMUN today.

The article further says:

At the talks, the Japanese side persistently raised the matter of the North-South dialogues and the question of the conclusion of the nuclear safeguards accord as a precondition for the DPRK-Japan talks. It makes us doubt if it came to the negotiations for the normalization of the DPRK-Japan relations with real autonomy or danced to the tune of others.

It is already a known fact that it is none other than the United States and the South Korean authorities who openly exercise pressure on the Japanese side to include the matter of the North-South dialogues and the question of the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord in the agenda items of the DPRK-Japan talks.

The Japanese side should refrain from such practices as heeding other's entreaties and laying obstacles on the way of the DPRK-Japan talks.

Whether progress would be achieved at the talks slated in Beijing in mid-May or not entirely depends on whether the Japanese side has the willingness to totally liquidate the past abnormal relations between the DPRK and Japan honestly out of an independent stand and solve the question regarding the normalization of DPRK-Japan relations with sincerity or not.

The Korean and Japanese peoples and the peaceloving peoples in Asia and the world will follow with keen interest how the forthcoming talks will proceed.

Daily Blames South's Authorities for Pollution

SK2803053691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0454 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The pollution of service water in the areas along the River Naktong has caused a big stir in the South Korean society.

Commenting on this, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The Doosan Electronic Co. In the Kumi Industrial Zone, backed by the authorities, has discharged heavily polluted water into the river Naktong without purification from October last year, seriously polluting the water of the river and bringing great sufferings to the population of Taegu and the central area of South Kyongsang Province who use the river as service water source.

The pollution of service water is not a casual happening from "carelessness" of a few officials or "unavoidable causes" such as "accidents" but is an inevitable consequence of the anti-popular acts of No Tae-u in power who has sought only long-term office and personal wealth and distinction, not concerned about the stable life of the people.

When he seized power, No Tae-u made a long string of "commitments" such as "wellbeing of the people" and "improvement of residential environment", but he has honored none of them.

What he did was to seek fascism and war, treacheries and division and fill his purse by defending comprador businesses and vicious employers.

Pollution damages are shocking in all parts of South Korea —rivers are spoilt and shoals of fish die and culture farms are destroyed.

With no amount of attempt can the South Korean ruling group avoid its responsibility for the pollution of service water or cover up its crimes.

'Tear-Gas Offensive' Toward Demonstrators Noted

SK2703103391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1009 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—The South Korean authorities decided to restrict for five years the social activities of the demonstrators who resisted the police tear-gas offensive with fire bombs in case police fails to arrest them within two weeks and ordered to arrest as soon as possible some 300 fire bottle throwers who have not yet been arrested, according to a report.

A torrent of repressive orders are frantic moves to threaten and blackmail those students who have risen up in a righteous struggle and suppress them at the point of the bayonet, a news analyst of MINJU CHOSON today says, and continues:

The demonstrators whom the authorities threatened to arrest are the patriotic students who are struggling for independence, democracy and reunification.

It is only too natural that students are waging an anti-No Tae-u anti-"Democratic Liberal Party" struggle under the situation where the No ruling group feathered their own nest through an extra-large fraud called Suso housing scandal and forced the "local assembly elections" with violence and fraud in a bid to consolidate the foundation of the "Democratic Liberal Party" for long-term office.

The use of fire bottles by students in demonstrations is a legitimate self-defence to resist the bestial atrocities of the No ruling group hell bent on suppression, firing tear-gas canisters at them at random.

It is the proper exercise of rights that the students countered the firing of tear-gas canisters made from poisonous chemicals with fire bottle-throwing.

Without uttering a word about the firing of tear-gas canisters threatening the lives of people, howeer, the No group incriminate the throwing of fire bottles in self-defence and arrest student demonstrators. This is like a thief crying "stop thief".

If it wants to see no more fire bottle throwing by students, the No ruling group must stop firing tear-gas canisters which compels them to resist with fire bottles.

CPRF Official Calls For Release of 'Patriots'

SK2803110991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1015 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—We strongly reiterate our demand that the South Korean authorities unconditionally release the visitors to the North and pro-reunification patriots thrown behind bars, ensure free debate on reunification and free movement for reunification and create an atmosphere of reunification, Ho Hyok-pil, vice-director of the secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF), told home and foreign reporters today.

He was addressing a press conference sponsored by the CPRF on the lapse of two years since the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, a well known democrat and adviser to the coalition for National Democratic Movement of South Korea, visited Pyongyang.

Ho Hyok-pil added that as they released the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, the South Korean authorities must release other visitors to the North who are kept in prison for no reason.

Still left in South Korean prisons are Yu Won-ho who assisted the Rev. Mun in his trip to the North, Yim Su-Kyong known as the "flower of reunification" who participated in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students in Pyongyang as the official delegate of Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives], and Father Mun Kyu-hyon who accompanied Yim Su- Kyong on her return trip through Panmunjom.

Mun Ik-hwan's Pyongyang visit from March 27 to April 3, 1989 was of great importance in that he confirmed with our side the common view that reunification by means of confederation is the most reasonable way of reunification and it marked the beginning of contact and dialogue between nongovernmental politicians of the North and the South, Ho Hyok-pil said.

During his stay in Pyongyang, Mun Ik-hwan was twice received by the great leader President Kim Il-song, open-heartedly exchanged with him views on the reunification issue, reached an agreement on principled matters related to the independent and peaceful reunification of the country with officials of the CPRF and published a joint statement.

Noting that after the release of Mun Ik-hwan, the South Korean authorities continue to persecute and repress him and restrict his free activity, Ho Hyok-pil urged a stop to the unreasonable persecution and repression and a guarantee for his free activity for reunification.

These days, the South Korean authorities have faked up various cases and tried to link them with the North in a far-fetched way as part of their moves to crack down on the pro-reunification democratic forces, he noted, demanding that the "National Security Law," an evil law against democracy and reunification, be abolished, the concrete wall, a symbol of division, be dismantled and free travel and full-scale open door be realised.

The vice-director of the CPRF secretariat stressed:

If the South Korean authorities are truly interested in the reunification of the country, they must not dream of "unifying the country by prevailing over communism" but accept the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo which does cot allow "predominance over communism" or "communization," invasion of the North or "invasion of the South."

They must immediately respond to our proposal for convening a political consultative conference for national reunification to define the method of reunifying the country and refrain from obstructing free contact and dialogue between nongovernmental organizations and personnel of the North and the South.

Reportage on Visit of Thai Princess Continues

Government Holds Banquet

*SK2603234791 Pyongyang KCNA in English
2206 GMT 26 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 26 (KCNA)—The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea arranged a banquet this evening at the Mokran House in welcome of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand and her party.

Vice-president Yi Chong-ok and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn spoke there.

Yi Chong-ok said that the princess's kind visit to the DPRK this time is an event which holds an important place in the history of the development of relations between the two countries.

He further said:

Today, the Thai people are making a dynamic advance to build a happy and prosperous life under the correct leadership of esteemed His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and making big progress in industrial, agricultural and other fields.

Adhering to the principle of impartiality in external relations, the Thai Government is maintaining close political and economic relations with many countries of the world and greatly contributing to peace and security, cooperation and development in Asia.

We are well aware that esteemed Your Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon are possessed of extensive knowledge of various domains and were awarded many honorary titles through your energetic study and are deeply respected and loved by your people for your great devotion to the wellbeing of the Thai people and to the development of the country.

We highly estimate the exploits Your Royal Highness Princess have performed for your country and people and congratulate you on your 36th birthday.

In the past, the DPRK and Thailand have expanded and developed travels and contacts between delegations and cooperation in different domains, which have brought the bilateral relations closer.

The Korean people will sincerely work to make the flower garden of friendship between the DPRK and Thailand more beautiful.

I am convinced that if the DPRK and Thailand cooperate closely with each other in political, economic cultural and all other fields in the idea of independence, peace and friendship, they will greatly contribute to the common prosperity and progress and the cause of peace in Asia.

In her speech Maha Chakri Sirindhorn said that although Thailand and the DPRK are far away from each other, they are situated in Asia alike and have long-standing histories and culture intrinsic to their nations though they are different from each other.

There is no difficulty in strengthening relations and cooperation between the two countries and peoples for the highest interests of both sides for their commonness as the same Asian countries, she said, and continued:

I am happy to note that the relations between our two countries are now developing rapidly in all fields.

I hope that my current visit to your country will further strengthen and develop such relations and, at the same time, I am firmly convinced that many visits between our two countries will help the two peoples understand each other better and will further cement the foundation of understanding and cooperation between the two countries in the future.

The banquet proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

A performence was given by artistes in Pyongyang at the banquet.

Princess Visits Mangyongdae

*SK2803045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0438 GMT 28 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand and her party visited Mangyongdae on March 27.

Being briefed on an immortal story associated with the native home in Mangyongdae, the guests saw with keen interest household goods and farm implements which have been preserved with much care.

Her royal highness princess and her party posed for a photograph before the old home in Mangyongdae.

They were guided to the West Sea barrage on the same day.

The guests mounted an observation platform and enjoyed a bird's eye view of the barrage, hearing the story that the Korean people and People's Army soldiers have successfully built the barrage of world standard with their own efforts and technology in a short span of time.

They also toured the Korean Central History Museum.

They saw a music and dance performance given by Pyongyang artistes at the Mansudae Art Theatre in the evening.

They were shown round the May Day Stadium on March 26.

The guests were accompanied by Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin.

Kim Il-song Meets Thai Princess

SK2803113791 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1025 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of the Kingdom of Thailand and her party on a goodwill visit to Korea.

On hand were Vice-premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam, Vice-premier Kim Pok-sin and Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Kyu-il.

Royal Ambassador of Thailand to Korea Montri Chalichan was also present.

President Kim Il-song had a talk with Her Royal Highness Princess in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

Her Royal Highness Princess presented a gift to President Kim Il-song.

He gave a luncheon for her and her party.

Computerizing Projects Accords Signed With UN

SK2803153891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—Agreements on cooperation in computerizing construction designing and updating the laboratories of the central hygienic prevention centre were signed here today between the DPRK and the United Nations Development Programme [UNDP].

The projects will contribute to increasing the speed and the scientific accuracy of designing and effectively utilizing building-materials and workforce by introducing a modern computer system in construction designing.

They will also help toward increasing the capacity of keeping a watch on toxic organic materials and materials contaminated by heavy metals and bacteria in the laboratories of the central hygienic prevention centre and protecting the health of people and environmental sanitation.

The projects will be completed in two to three years.

Earlier, agreements on assistance in the technology of using low-calory coal and the tank farming of vegetables in hot houses were signed.

The agreements were signed by Han Tae-hyok, director of the general bureau of cooperation with international organizations of the State External Economy Commission, and Henning Karcher, Resident Representative of the UNDP in Pyongyang.

Price Policy Official Addresses Meeting 25 Mar

SK2703065491 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Speech by Chong Myong-kap, chairman of the State Price Fixing Commission, at a reporting meeting held on 25 March to mark the 20th anniversary of the publication of Kim Il-song's classical work, "On Some Problems Which Arise in Implementing the Uniform Price Policy"; place not given—portions recorded]

[Text] [Begin Chong Myong-kap recording] Comrades: Under the solemn circumstances in which, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address of this year and the party's appeal, all of the people throughout the country are vigorously waging the great advance movement of the nineties with a firm faith in and optimism of the victory of the revolution, today we significantly celebrate the 20th anniversary of the publication of the respected and beloved leader's immortal classical work, "On Some Problems Which Arise in Implementing the Uniform Price Policy." The matter of prices in our country has been brilliantly solved along the unique way of our own style thanks to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's chuche-oriented ideology and theory on prices.

The great leader took epochal measures to improve the guidance and management of the socialist economy in a revolutionary manner in conformity with the conditions of realities in our country in which the socialist reform of people's social relations in production has been perfected and the size of the economy has been rapidly expanded. As a result, in our country the unique Taean work system of our own style and the new agricultural guidance system which accord with the inherent nature of the socialist system have been created, and the uniform price system has been established together with the unified planning system.

The great leader, to see to it that the price policy of the country was organized and implemented in conformity with the inherent demands of the socialist system and its transitional character, personally called the functionaries of the price fixing sector on 26 March 1971 and gave the programmatic teaching that the party should firmly grasp and adhere to in executing its price policy. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's immortal classical work, "On Some Problems Which Arise in Implementing the Uniform Price Policy" is an encyclopedic document which gives the overall answers to the theoretical and practical problems which arise in establishing and executing a price policy by the party and the state of the working class in power in such a way that it can contribute to accelerating socialist construction and to improving the people's standard of living. [applause]

The only correct way to carry out the state's unified guidance on the matter of prices is precisely the way of unifying prices.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Unifying prices means to guarantee uniformity in the matter of prices under the unified guidance of state price fixing organs.

The unifying of prices that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has elucidated anew is to establish an orderly price fixing system and to implement the unified guidance to, and control of, the matter of prices by the party and the state so that uniformity in the matter of prices can be ensured under the unified guidance of state price fixing organs. Since the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song expounded a unique ideology on unifying prices our people have been able to have a correct guideline which makes it possible for them to deal with the matter of prices of the country in conformity with the interests of the party, the state, and the people.

As the great leader extensively elucidated, in his classical work, the theoretical and practical problems which arise in implementing the uniform price policy, our people have been able to have the only correct way in thoroughly eliminating subjectivism, bureaucratism, provincialism, and departmentalism in the matter of prices; in outstandingly combining the principles of democratic centralism with the revolutionary mass line; in thoroughly ensuring scientificalness, reasonableness, uniformity, and functionality in price fixing work; and in leading price leverage to effectively serve the acceleration of socialist construction and the improvement of the living standards of the people. [end recording]

The reporter then mentioned the fact that the price policy of our country has been organized and implemented under the unified guidance of the party and the state and therefore, the policy has actively contributed to carrying out the revolutionary cause of chuche. Referring to the fact that the great leader has given great love and solicitude to price fixing functionaries, while calling them political functionaries and economic management functionaries, the reporter continued:

[Begin recording] Thanks to the wise leadership of the great leader and the energetic guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il the price policy of our country has been able to always traverse the road of brilliant victory and glory ever since the early period of building a new society following national liberation to today. At the same time, as the uniform price policy has been outstandingly implemented, the price policy of our country has also been able to actively contribute to realizing industrialization of socialism and self-reliant national economic construction and to improving the people's material and cultural life.

In this significant meeting which celebrates the 20th anniversary of the publication of the great leader's immortal classical work, "On Some Problems Which Arise in Implmenting the Uniform Price Policy," together with the infinite reverence and burning loyalty of all price fixing functionaries and all of the people I extend utmost glory and the warmest gratitude to Comrade Kim Il-song, the respected and beloved leader of our party and people, who expounded a unique ideology on the uniform price policy by embodying the immortal chuche idea in the price policy, who has most brilliantly solved the matter of price in the socialist society, and who has thus bestowed great glory and happiness upon us and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. [applause]

All functionaries in the price fixing sector should more firmly arm themselves with the chuche idea, the revolutionary ideology of our party, should firmly unite around the party and the leader, should uphold the party's leadership with loyalty. Thus, they should thoroughly implement the socialist economic construction line and policies set forth by the party .

Functionaries in the price fixing sector should see to it that the uniform price policy elucidated by the great leader in his classical work displays greater vitality. All functionaries in the price fixing sector should correctly decide standard prices in conformity with the demands of the uniform price system, and should ensure party spirit, people-mindedness, and objectivity in fixing prices. Thus, they should see to it that price leverage actively contributes to economic construction, and to improving the people's living.

Holding aloft the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea all price fixing functionaries should rise up as one in the struggle to implement the uniform price policy set forth by our party along the single road of revolution pointed out by the great leader and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. Thus, they should demonstrate to the world the superiority of the price system of our country and the great vitality of our style of socialism in which the leader, the party, and the masses advance forward, firmly united as one.

Let all of us firmly rally around the great leader and the dear comrade leader and vigorously fight for the final victory of the revolutionary cause of chuche. [applause] [end recording]

Symposium Marks Kim Chong-il Work Anniversary

SK2703061691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0531 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—A symposium was held Tuesday to mark the 10th anniversary of the publication of "For the Develoment of Chuche-Orientated Literature and Art," a work of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The speakers stressed that "For the Development of Chuche-Orientated Literature and Art," a letter sent by Comrade Kim Chong-il to the participants in the national meeting of active cultural workers and artists, on March 31, 1981 is a highly important work which summed up the proud successes made by our literature and art in the 1970's under the wise leadership of the party and gives flawless answers to the theoretical and practical problems arising in steadily developing literature and art in conformity with the demand for modelling the whole of society on the chuche idea.

They said that the revolutionary literary and art traditions established by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the flames of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are a historical root of our literature and art and a bedrock for incessantly developing literature and art.

The work underscored, in particular, the need to press forward the work of adapting classic masterpieces created in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle into literary and art works of different forms, they said, and went on:

If working-class literature and art which embody the revolutionary idea of the leader and serve for his revolutionary cause are to fulfill their mission, they must depict the revolutionary activities of the leader profoundly.

They noted that the work gives perfect answers to all the theoretical and practical problems arising in further developing our literature and art in keeping with the developing reality such as firmly establishing chuche in literature and art, fully embodying the party spirit, working-class spirit and serve-the-people spirit in them, maintaining our own revolutionary system of creation, preserving originality in creative work and putting literary and artistic activities on a mass basis.

* DPRK Central People's Committee on Youth Day

912C0155A Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 1 Feb 91 p 1

[Decree issued by the DPRK Central People's Committee in Pyongyang on 1 February]

[Text] **Decree of the DPRK Central People's Committee**

Subject: On Instituting the Youth Day

The youth are the major component of the chuche-oriented revolutionary forces. They are the next generation and the successors of the revolutionary cause.

Our youths, holding aloft the banner of the chuche ideology, have forged ahead dynamically along the road of revolution, attaining immortal achievements for the fatherland and the people.

In the days of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, Korea's young communists led the way hewing out the path of struggle and, as the mainstay of the armed force, displayed unsurpassed valor and self-sacrificing spirit and made great contributions to achieving the great fatherland restoration cause.

Since liberation, our youths, inheriting the tradition of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and upholding the leadership of the party and the leader, have steadfastly defended and carried through the party line and policy in every period and stage of the developing revolution, performing brilliant exploits.

Our youth led the van of the struggle to shatter the obstructive maneuvers of the class enemies and attain the cause of establishing the people's government and the advanced social systems; in the arduous fatherland liberation war against the U.S. imperialist aggressors, they displayed mass heroism and firmly defended the gains of the revolution, fully demonstrating the seething patriotism and heroic spirit of the Korean youth.

In the postwar period, our youths highly displayed their revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, playing the role of the spearhead and shock brigade in the solemn struggle to build the socialist state of self-dependence, self-reliance, and self-defense. Thanks to their devoted struggles and creative labor, countless monumental creations sprang up everywhere in our country to add luster to the era of the Workers Party of Korea, changing the face of the fatherland.

Under the party leadership, our youths are fulfilling admirably their mission and responsibility as the youth vanguard in the historic march to make the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—and convert the whole society into the chuche ideology.

All the successes achieved by our people in their revolutionary struggles and construction work are permeated with the precious blood and sweat of our youths who heroically fought for the party and the revolution, the fatherland and people, with all their youthful resources and wisdom. The achievements and exploits that our youths, with their infinite loyalty to the party and the leader and their spirit of devoted service for the fatherland and people, have registered in the socialist construction and the cause of the fatherland defense will shine forever in the history of revolution of our people.

The question of the youth has been brilliantly resolved in our country under the sagacious leadership of the party and the leader. Today our youths are firmly armed with the great chuche ideology and united in one mind around the party. As its successor, they are carrying forward the revolution solidly with firm confidence in the revolutionary cause of chuche. Our youths continue to uphold the party leadership, entrusting their destiny altogether to the party and the socialist fatherland. Treasuring the precious political life bestowed on them by the party, they are firmly determined to dedicate their lives to the cause of socialist and communist revolution.

Our party and people deem it a great joy and pride to have these youths of ours—who are infinitely faithful to the party and the revolution, who are firm with their organizational spirit and disciplinary character, and who are simple-hearted and diligent—and have high expectations of and profound confidence in them.

To honor eternally the immortal achievements and exploits our youths have registered in the struggles for the prosperity of our fatherland and for the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause by carrying forward the glorious tradition of the Korean communist youth movement, and to prepare the growing youth of a new generation even more solidly as the reliable successor of our revolution, the DPRK Central People's Committee hereby decides as follows:

Twenty eight August is instituted as the Youth Day, in commemoration of 28 August 1927, the day the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song formed the Korean Communist Youth League, an event of epoch-making significance in the development of the youth movement in our country in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle days.

The Central People's Committee, DPRK
1 February 1991
Pyongyang

Artifacts of Korean Folklore Museum Described

*SK2703153091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1502 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—The Korean Folklore Museum is situated in Taedongmun-dong, Central District, Pyongyang.

Founded on February 10, 1956, the museum preserves folklore relics and visual aids with which it contributes to providing the working people with a correct knowledge of the traditions, good manners and customs of the Korean nation, developing them further and establishing a socialist way of life.

Several dozen thousand pieces of folklore relics showing the production manners and customs of the Korean nation are well preserved in the museum.

About 2,000 of them are exhibited, divided into the section of production manners, the section of costumes, the section of family etiquette, the section of folklore sports and games, etc.

On display in the section of production manners are farm tools including bone pick, stone sickle and hoe, hunting weapons, fishing tools, weaving tools including a spinning wheel belonging to the primitive age, reeling instrument, hand loom and cotton, silk and other fabrics, smithery tools and metal crafts, furniture, stone crafts and straw crafts.

Exhibited in the section of dietary custom are kitchen utensils, table sets, tables and other relics and local specialities. Garments, shoes and ornaments of men and women in all social strata and occupations ranging from the Koguryo Dynasty to the Yi Dynasty are on display in the section of costumes.

The section of folklore sports and games shows archery, horse riding, Korean wrestling and seesawing. In the section of music, old and improved drums, gongs and other percussion instruments, kayagum, Korean four-string fiddle and other string instruments and flute and other wind instruments are exhibited, vividly showing the achievements in the building of national music.

The museum is promoting the work of discovering, collecting, studying and preserving folklore relics and materials. It is swapping experience with its foreign counterparts.

KCNA Review of 27 Mar Pyongyang Press

*SK2703113591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1023 GMT 27 Mar 91*

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reported that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received messages from Jerry John Rawlings, head of state and chairman of the Provisional National Defense Council of the Republic of Ghana, and Bir Bikram Shah Dev Birendra, king of Nepal, in reply to messages of greetings om the 34th anniversary of the independence of Ghana and king's birthday.

A seminar on the great leader President Kim Il-song's New Year address was held in Tanzania, says the paper.

It carries a story that President Kim Il-song has led the revolution and construction along the road of victory, implanting the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance in the hearts of the Korean people.

Remaining in the limelight of the paper is news that South Korean people are ardently revering dear Comrade Kim Chong-il as the lodestar of national reunification.

MINJU CHOSON introduces the port of Haeju which has been turned into a trade port under the wise leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN gives an account of a seminar of foreign seamen on "On Further Developing Educational Work", a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il, held at Nampo Port.

Printed in the paper are a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] to the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and a solidarity letter to the WPK Central Committee sent by the Central Executive Committee of the People's National Congress of Guyana in support of the efforts of the Korean people to achieve the peaceful reunification of the country.

The paper editorially calls for intensifying ideological education among the party members and other working people to raise their national pride.

Econews of the press includes reports about brisk sowing of rice seed on cold beds at cooperative farms and innovations in production at the Chongjin chemical fibre complex.

Given in the press are accounts of arrival in Pyongyang of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of Thailand and her party and a banquet arranged by the DPRK Government in honor of Thai guests. Also carried in the press are speeches made by Vice-President Yi Chong-ok and Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at the banquet.

NODONG SINMUN runs an article entitled "Highly Important Guideline Which Indicates Most Correct Way of Using the Lever of Price in Socialist Society" written by Chong Myong-kap, chairman of the State Commission of Price Assessment.

Printed in the paper is an article captioned "After Watching Second DPRK-Japan Talks" by the press group which accompanied the DPRK Government delegation.

The press reports that the device for the permanent preservation of the "Complete Collection of Buddhist Scriptures Printed on 80,000 Wooden Blocks", the cultural heritage valued as a national treasure, has been perfected and all volumes of the collection are displayed at the Myohyangsan History Museum.

NODONG SINMUN reports that the general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party met the DPRK ambassador to his country and a 1991-92 plan for cooperation between friendship organizations of Korea and the Soviet Union was signed in Pyongyang.

According to the press, the Alliance of Anti-Nuke Peace Movement was formed in Seoul, and professors of 54 universities and colleges in South Korea made public a joint statement in demand of a probe into the truth of Suso housing scandal.

NODONG SINMUN carries an article on the dark society of South Korea where human rights are ruthlessly trampled down.

The Korea table tennis unified team to the 41st World Tennis Table Championships held a press conference in Nagano, Japan, and the team started training, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN conveys voices at home and abroad denouncing the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises.

The paper comments on the bellicose remarks of No Tae-u during his visit to a puppet army unit which was participating in the exercises.

The world news columns of the paper include reports that the fourth session of the Seventh National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China opened, her royal highness princess of Thailand visited China, a new leadership of the National Salvation Front of Romania was elected, the Singapore foreign minister called for strengthening economic cooperation among countries in Asia and Pacific region, the Bangladesh foreign minister referred to the foreign policy of the new government and the number of crimes is increasing in Bulgaria.

"U.S. Imperialists' Argument of 'Free Trade' and Protectionism" is the title of an article of the paper.

KCNA Review of 28 Mar Pyongyang Press

*SK2803052091 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 28 Mar 91*

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today reports that President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea received a message from Bulgarian President Zhelyu Zhelev in reply to his message of greetings on the national day of Bulgaria.

Immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were reported and studied in different countries, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN conveys voices of heads of state, political and public figures of different countries highly praising the imperishable exploits performed by President Kim Il-song for the times and revolution.

It is reported in the press that seminars on works of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il were held abroad.

According to NODONG SINMUN, foreign publications carried articles explaining works of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The paper deals with the story that Comrade Kim Chong-il has wisely led the work of the grand people's study house to fully discharge its mission as an important base of assimilating the whole society to intelligentia and as a university of correspondence course.

Given in the paper is an account of a symposium to mark the tenth anniversary of the publication of "For the Development of Chuche-Orientated Literature and Art," a work of Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The press editorially calls for increasing assistance to leading sectors of the national economy.

Econews of the press includes reports about the fulfillment of the first quarter year plan at the Musan mining complex, a leading ore headings production base, increased output of iron and steel at iron and steel works and about the fast progress of the tramway construction in Pyongyang.

The press gives accounts of a ceremony of awarding the DPRK Order and honorary doctorate to Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirinthon of Thailand and her sojourn in Korea.

The Japanese Youth Liaison Council of Societies for the Study of the Chuche Idea published the newspaper "Chuche Idea" No. 227, says NODONG SINMUN.

The paper informs the readers of a meeting held to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the biological branch of the Academy of Sciences.

It introduces the newly-released Korean documentary film "Tongil Street Takes Shape".

"Socialist democracy of our own style is people-first democracy" is the title of a MINJU CHOSON article.

Dailies report that the chairman of the DPRK parliamentary group sent a telephone message to his South Korean counterpart on the upcoming 85th Inter-Parliamentary Conference.

Printed in the press is a statement released by the side of the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers to the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) denouncing the "U.N. forces" side for trying to appoint a South Korean Army "general" as "its senior member" to the MAC.

Different social strata of South Korea are lifting up loud voices denouncing the authorities' attempt to avoid the responsibility for the pollution of service water in the area of the River Nakdong, says the press.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with a commentary urging the No Tae-u ruling group to bear responsibility for this case and openly apologize for it.

Conspicuous in the press is news that the "local Assembly elections" held in cities, counties and municipal wards of South Korea on March 26 showed low voting rate.

Dailies inform the readers that Koreans in Japan have warmly welcomed the Korea unified table tennis team and the Japanese papers widely reported an account of its arrival in Japan.

According to NODONG SINMUN, different countries condemned the "Team Spirit 91" joint manoeuvres and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged in succession ground and aerial war exercises for an aggression on the North.

The paper reports that heads of parties, states and governments and party leaders of different countries have supported the DPRK's new proposal for national reunification.

It is reported in the paper that Comrade Fidel Castro declared Cuba will remain a socialist country, and the deputy general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union stated that the Soviet Union will not give up its option of socialism.

Carried in the press is news that the final results of the referendum on the preservation of the union was made public in the Soviet Union and the 11th round of regular negotiations between the Chinese and Japanese foreign ministries was held in Tokyo.

"U.S. Open Interference in Other's Internal Affairs" is the title of a NODONG SINMUN article.

South Korea

North Reaction to UN Appointment 'Regrettable'

SK2803105691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0942 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea's protest against the appointment of a South Korean general as head of the U.N. Command (UNC) component of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) is regrettable, a UNC spokesman said Thursday.

Stressing that the new UNC senior delegate is fully qualified for the post, the spokesman said the U.N. Command would maintain the Military Armistice Commission and would go to the conference table whenever the communist side wants to talk.

If the communist side refuses to operate the main channel of the MAC, finding fault with the new chief delegate, the U.N. command would continue the MAC operation through other level talks, the spokesman said.

The UNC side named Maj. Gen. Hwang Won-tak as head of the U.N. component on Monday. He is the first South Korean officer to lead the UNC delegation to the commission, a supervisory body that oversees the 1953 cease-fire agreement following the Korean war. Hwang's 56 predecessors were all American generals.

North Korea, in a joint statement issued by the communist side, has strongly suggested it might refuse to attend further MAC meetings to protest the appointment, claiming the appointment was a clear breach of the armistice since South Korea was not a signatory to the cease-fire.

North Korea, China and the U.N. command signed the agreement, but South Korea refused to sign in a protest against national division.

A U.S. State Department spokesman said Wednesday that appointment of a non-U.S. flag officer as UNC representative is consistent with both the armistice agreements and international laws.

Third-Country Panmunjom Crossings Considered

SK2803030491 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea is looking into ways to open up its border with North Korea to allow nationals of third countries to cross between the two parts, a government official said Thursday.

"The government is considering ways to permit nationals of third countries to traffic South and North Korea freely through Panmumjom in a bid to promote opening of North Korean society and direct and indirect inter-Korean exchanges," said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"In order to enable foreigners to freely traffic South and North Korea via Panmumjom, it is necessary for us to trim a part of the current immigration control law."

The government is also mulling the idea of designating Panmumjom a temporary entry venue by revising the immigration control law, and estblishing a customs post in Panmumjom, other government sources said.

The idea is primarily aimed at senior officials of third countries traveling between Seoul and Pyongyang and may be linked to the entry of South and North Korea into the United Nations, the sources said.

It also has to do with rewriting laws to facilitate inter-Korean exchanges.

One official said that allowing foreigners into South Korea via Panmumjom would require a change in the law as Article 11 of the Immigration Control Law states that foreigners who want to enter South Korea must be inspected by immigration officials at an airport or seaport.

Consultations among the ministries concerned are under way on the legal problems, he added.

* Japanese Business Groups To Invest in DPRK

912C0148A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 4 Feb 91 p 9

[Article by reporter An Hi-chang: "Japanese Businesses Looking for Investment Opportunities in North Korea"]

[Text] As the governmental exchanges to normalize relations between Japan and North Korea become serious and frequent, more pro-Chosen Soren business groups in Japan are getting ready to invest in North Korea.

Since it is certain that a great deal of economic aid from Japan will be coming to North Korea as the two countries' normalize relations, interest among Japanese businesses in investing in North Korea is growing.

According to a recent article in Japan's ASAHI SHIMBUN, the number of Japanese entreprenuers consulting Chosen Soren businessmen, who frequently travel to North Korea, on business opportunities in North Korea is increasing.

Since it is customary that economic exchanges and investments precede a formalization of relations, the interest in the Japanese business community is only natural.

In case North Korea, unlike in the past, maintains some flexibility in its business relationship, the economic exchanges between the two countries are expected to become active within a short period of time.

North Korea has, in the past, pursued some joint ventures with pro-Chosen Soren business groups in Japan. Due to ineffectual management, however, the results of the joint ventures have been insignificant.

As the possibility of economic exchanges between the two countries grows stronger, their joint venture management will also improve.

North Korea's policy on joint ventures and the current status of Japanese businesses, which are currently engaging in joint ventures or planning to start joint ventures with North Korea in the near future, are examined below.

North Korea's Policy

On 8 September 1984, North Korea established a joint venture law in order to pursue joint ventures with the West.

Since the joint venture law was created for the development of industry with the help of foreign investment, it was fundamentally different from North Korea's traditional economic policy which stressed "success through one's own efforts without help from outside."

As a part of this new policy, North Korea sent more than 5,000 businessmen to the People's Republic of China to study the active undertakings within the special economic zones.

In December of 1984, North Korea showed a considerable activity in joint ventures by announcing the construction of a 60-story hotel with the help of France's Bernard Company.

North Korea's joint venture law, however, soon ran into a stone wall.

North Korea was pursuing a self-contradictory goal of opening its door to the outside without offering a reform which would bring about a change in its economic social system.

This mistaken attitude was quite apparent even in the statement issued in October 1984 by Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the Economic Policy Commission, an organ of the Central People's Committee. He said, "Some publications in foreign countries wrongly associated our joint venture law with something like 'special economic zones' or interpreted our law to signify a change from a closed-door policy to an open-door one; however, these are groundless statements."

Due to this principal discrepancy, North Korea was not able to work out the regulations necessary to pursue the hotel construction in time, and the joint venture project with France had to be subsequently abandoned.

North Korea's current economic plight and policy change of late, however, suggest a new direction in its attitude toward joint ventures.

In some joint venture businesses, a certain degree of capitalistic way of management is already being practiced, such as paying bonuses to workers.

Regarding North Korea, Professor O Chin-Yong (Sechong Research Institute) said, "North Korea has finally recognized that it can no longer survive within the established system. It is expected the DPRK will now take a different method from the one it took in 1984 after the establishment of its joint venture law."

Examples of Some Important Joint Venture Businesses

Pyongyang Clothing Company

This is a joint venture invested in by Kang Yong-suk, the president of Ryukyo Trading Company of Osaka, Japan. It manufactures men's clothing. Japan supplies the machines and materials, and then the entire manufactured clothing output is shipped back to Japan where it is distributed and sold.

The production started two years ago and 14,000 pieces of clothing are manufactured each month.

Last year, $810,000 were invested and another $1,500,000 are expected to be invested this year.

A person at the company said, "It is more beneficial for the company to employ 800 young, experienced female workers in North Korea than to operate a factory in Japan."

Some 150 workers who excelled in their work last year were selected and each of these workers was given a Soviet-made refrigerator as a bonus.

Hamhung Chemical Company

For the first time in joint venture business, this company is now producing the latest and most advanced products such as fluorescence materials used to manufacture Braun tubes, lense grinding abrasives, and superconductors. It is the largest among the joint venture enterprises, comprising 30 buildings on 65,000 square meters of land with an investment of $12 million.

The investor is Yo Sung-kun (age 63), the president of the Chamber of Korean Commerce and Industry in Shimonoseki, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan. The president of the company in Hamhung, North Korea, is his son, Yo Yung-baik, 32 years old and U.S.-educated.

Materials for these advanced products are obtained within North Korea, but the technology and equipment were brought in from China. They plan to export the products to Europe and the United States as well as to Japan.

Pyongyang Metal Casting Company

This company is being planned by Chang Yun-sik (age 54) and is expected to produce 600,000 faucets a year when completed.

To start with, this company will supply about 80 percent of the faucets for the 50,000 apartments to be built on Tongil (unification) Street in Pyongyang.

For the first time in North Korea, both hot and cold water will run from the same faucet.

The wages for the workers are estimated to be about 140,000 won which is much higher than the wages of average workers in North Korea, 80 to 100 North Korean won (28,000 to 35,000 won).

Pro-Chosen Soren businessmen, in the past, have participated in the joint ventures with North Korea with the idea of helping their native country rather than for immediate profits.

Since North Korea can provide them with cheap labor and necessary resources, however, these entreprenuers are now gearing up for the profits by investing in the country.

Second generation pro-Chosen Soren businessmen seem especially eager to invest in North Korea with the profits in mind.

A similar motive is spreading among other Japanese businessmen as well, and the Japanese investments in

North Korea are expected to grow rapidly as the time for normalization of relations between the two countries approaches.

* North Korean Criminal Code Analyzed

912C0156A Seoul PYONGHWA TONGIL in Korean Feb 91 pp 50-59

[Article by Kim Tae-pu: "The Truth About the North Korean Criminal Code"]

[Text]**DPRK Criminal Code, Major Obstacle to Reunification**

Recently, it has been brought to light that North Korea has a "criminal code" which is more severe than our National Security Law [NSL]. The fellow travelers of North Korea have heretofore been demanding the repeal of the NSL, vilifying it as a vicious law. Branding the NSL as an obstacle to national reunification, North Korea has so far spurned and shied away from our proposals.

However, "The Real Truth About the North Korean Criminal Code," published recently by the Center for North Korean Studies, substantiates the duplicity of the North Korean policy and propaganda vis-a-vis South Korea and drives home the hollowness of the demands of those forces who have danced attendance on North Korea, chiming in with its propaganda.

According to "The Real Truth About the North Korean Criminal Code," North Korea enacted its constitution on 3 March 1950 after the pattern of the Stalin criminal code of the Soviet Union. Subsequently, on 19 December 1974 North Korea revised its criminal code with a view to completing the socialist revolution and implementing a unitary dictatorship and the chuche ideology. The revised criminal code went into effect as of 1 February 1975. However, the revised criminal code is said to have been kept secret, even from North Korea's inhabitants and its allies.

For the purpose of purging antisocialist counterrevolutionary elements, the revised penal code has provisions on counterrevolutionary crimes in its first parts, providing for capital punishment and confiscation of the offenders' property. The provisions on punishment of crimes infringing upon individual rights are placed in the latter part, evidencing North Korea's disregard for human lives and its all-out efforts to maintain the dictatorship dedicated to the chuche ideology.

South Korea's NSL is a limited-time law which will remain in force until the country is unified. On the contrary, the North Korean criminal code is supposed to last forever, even beyond reunification, and by having provisions on counterrevolutionary crimes, reveals a clear intention to perpetuate the socialist dictatorship. What is more, the North Korean criminal code is more comprehensive and has additional crimes which are not included in the NSL, and provides for more severe penalties at that.

The provisions of the North Korean criminal code are abstract, and generally, they permit analogical constructions and retroactive penalty. Thus they are not only contrary to the principle of the criminal legal system but also allow the party to interpret them as it pleases. The criminal code provides an absolute protection of North Korea's line on the reunification of the country under communism and forbids civilian travel between North and South.

Until now the pro-North Korean leftist forces have feverishly demanded the abolition of the NSL while remaining silent on the North Korean criminal code, which is contrary to reunification and humanism, and which follows the communist line. We wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to sound an alarm for our public, and at the same time, to reflect on the fact that we have neglected to study and grasp the facts about the North Korean criminal code, thus failing to cope properly with the demand of the leftist forces in the North and South for the repeal of the NSL.

When our government proposed inter-Korean talks to discuss the security-related laws of the two sides, North Korea rejected the proposal by saying it has no such law. This rejection indicates that North Korea does not want North-South exchanges, a cherished desire of our people, and is only interested in having the pro-North Korean forces operate freely in South Korea with no legal impediment.

Nonetheless the ROK Government enacted the "North-South Exchange Law" exempting from the application of the NSL those activities which are aimed at North-South exchanges and cooperation, thus ensuring that the NSL poses no obstacle whatsoever to inter-Korean exchanges. But North Korea has taken no action to reciprocate this South Korean initiative. A negotiation becomes truly meaningful only when the two sides make concessions and search for agreement. If only one side is to be pressed to make a unilateral concession, it would amount to being forced by the other side, whose real intention has nothing to do with the negotiation, to surrender and submit to it. If so, what would be the real purpose and intent of such a North Korean negotiating strategy toward South Korea?

While keeping mum on the necessity of revising or abolishing its criminal code which is most severe and most contrary to reunification in the world, North Korea is demanding the abolition of our NSL. This is tantamount to forcing us to disarm ourselves unilaterally.

We will now highlight the anti-reunification, anti-democratic, and anti-national characteristics of the North Korean criminal code by comparing it with our NSL.

Nature, Characteristics of North Korean Laws

All Laws Subordinated to Kim Il-song's Teachings

In North Korea Kim Il-song's teachings constitute the supreme rule of conduct. Next come the WPK's [Workers Party of Korea] decisions, which take precedence over the constitution.

In the final analysis, all laws and guiding principles in North Korea are nothing more than an instrumentality for maintaining the unitary Kim Il-song dictatorship.

Article 4 of the North Korean constitution provides that "the DPRK upholds as the guiding principle for its activity the WPK's chuche ideology which represents Marxism-Leninism as creatively applied to realities in our country." This clearly indicates that WPK policies decided by the party leader supersede the provisions of the constitution.

The preamble of the WPK by-law provides that "the WPK upholds the revolutionary ideology of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, namely, the chuche ideology, as its sole guiding principle," thus clearly requiring the WPK to be absolutely obedient to Kim Il-song's teachings.

It follows that Kim Il-song's teachings are the holiest of all laws under the entire North Korean jurisprudence.

Criminal Code Built on Chuche Ideology

Article 44 of the North Korean criminal code, which defines the nature of the code, provides that the mission of the criminal code is, first, to defend and protect the president of the DPRK; second, to safeguard the lines and policies of the DPRK Government; third, to protect the sovereign powers of the workers and farmers, the socialist system, and the spoils of the revolution against all criminal encroachments; fourth, to protect the legitimate rights, lives, and property of the people; fifth, to contribute to the historic cause of dyeing the whole society one color in the chuche ideology by establishing revolutionary system and order in every aspect of state life. Thus the code provides that the North Korean society is a unique collective upholding the chuche ideology as the holiest scripture which safeguards the legitimacy of the North Korean regime and which ensures the consummation of the socialist revolution.

In addition, the North Korean criminal code provides that "a merciless blow be dealt to any class enemies who negate the socialist system, and the harshest punishment be meted out to even the slightest act undermining the authority and prestige of Kim Il-song and his son." Thus the criminal code stresses that the class struggle of socialism should be defended thoroughly and that everyone should follow the leadership of the party.

Counterrevolutionary Crimes vs NSL Provisions

Crime of Conspiring To Overthrow State Sovereignty vs Anti-State Crimes Under NSL

Article 51 of the North Korean criminal code provides that "the crime of conspiring to overthrow the state sovereignty refers to an act of plotting to overthrow the DPRK Government or participating in such a plot, and to an armed revolt (assault, terrorist attack, larceny, and sabotage against any public facility)."

When anyone, regardless of his or her nationality, commits or takes part in any of the acts prescribed above, it constitutes the crime of conspiring to overthrow the state sovereignty.

The punishment for this crime is death and the confiscation of all of the offender's property.

In the case of the crime of forming or joining in an anti-state organization as prescribed in Article 51 of our NSL, only those who have committed the crime are subject to punishment, which ranges from two years or more of imprisonment to death penalty depending on the seriousness of the offense.

On the contrary, the whole range of acts against the state sovereignty is punishable by the North Korean criminal code, which provides far harsher punishment than the NSL. In North Korea, anyone showing a mere sign of desire to criticize Kim Il-song and his son and the party is immediately punishable by death and the confiscation of all of his property.

Crime of Terrorism

The crime of terrorism as prescribed in Article 55 of the North Korean criminal code refers to an act of violating the personal safety of cadres of the North Korean Government, party, or social organizations out of class vengeance and for the purpose of resisting the socialist state sovereignty.

Any of the following constitutes the crime of terrorism: assassination, murder, kidnapping of, or inflicting injuries upon, or committing violence against persons mentioned above; and a mere attempt is punishable, regardless of whether the offender is a native or a foreigner.

The punishment is death and the confiscation of all of the offender's property, leaving no room for a choice between the two.

This crime corresponds to the crime of accomplishing the aims as specified or committing murder as prescribed in Article 4 of our NSL. The NSL punishes members of an anti-state organization or persons acting under its orders, on the basis of the offender's personal status. Punishment ranges from imprisonment of three years or more to life imprisonment or death, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

Regardless of the seriousness of the crime, North Korea metes out capital punishment even for a minor offense, thereby imposing submission and silence upon its inhabitants under the one-party communist dictatorship. Implementing this kind of law in South Korea is unthinkable.

Crimes of Reactionary Propaganda, Praise, Agitation

The crime of reactionary propaganda and agitation as stipulated in Article 56 of the North Korean criminal code refers to the crime of slandering party and state policies or founding, disseminating, or spreading a reactionary thought for the purpose of alienating the masses of people from the party and the state and inducing them to oppose the party, the state, and the socialist system.

It constitutes the crime of reactionary propaganda and agitation when any native or foreigner commits the act of slandering party or state policy or disseminating reactionary ideas by word of mouth, or by behavior, publication, writing, scribbling, or an anonymous note.

This crime is punishable by death or the confiscation of all of the offender's property.

This crime corresponds to the crime of praise and encouragement as stipulated in Article 7 of our NSL and the crime of conducting propaganda and agitation for the purposes as stipulated in Article 4 of the NSL. Under the NSL, any act beneficial to anti-state organizations is punishable, and the severity of punishment depends on the seriousness of the offense.

On the contrary, in North Korea even scribbling or an anonymous note is punishable by death, thus completely sealing off any room for wholesome criticism in its source. In particular, by most strictly interpreting any damage to the prestige and authority of Kim Il-song and his son, North Korea has institutionalized the personality cult of the two.

Crimes of Treason, Defection, and Offering Aid

The "crime of treason against the fatherland" as stipulated in Articles 52 and 53 of the North Korean criminal code refers to an act of betraying the country and the people, cases such as the act of a North Korean native defecting to a foreign country or the enemy, or assisting him or surrendering or defecting to him.

An act of defecting to a foreign country or the enemy, or asking for political asylum at a foreign embassy, or surrendering or defecting to the enemy, or assisting him or organizations of a hostile country or their personnel constitutes the crime of treason. In particular, when a soldier passes information concerning the troop strength or military positions on to the enemy, or abandons his arms and equipment, or fails to execute a combat order, an aggravated penalty will be meted out. (Article 53)

The crime of treason is punishable by death and the confiscation of all of the offender's property.

This crime corresponds to the crime of defection as stipulated in Article 6 of our NSL, the crime of offering assistance as stipulated in Article 9 of the NSL, and the crime of passing information on troop deployment and military installations as stipulated in Article 11 of the Military Criminal Code.

An act of treason against the state constitutes a crime in every country. But in North Korea, not only the principal but also his relatives who assisted him are subject to capital punishment and the confiscation of all their property indiscriminately, a fact highlighting the nature of the North Korean regime as a primitive monarchical dictatorship.

Crime of Espionage

The crime of espionage as stipulated in Article 54 of the North Korean criminal code is defined as an act of spying on state or military secrets and passing the information on to the enemy or a foreign country.

It constitutes the crime of espionage when one joins an espionage organization or receives espionage orders from it, or collects state or military secrets for the purpose of delivering them to the enemy or a foreign country; and information on economic, scientific, and cultural information are included in state secrets.

The crime of espionage is punishable by death and confiscation of all the property of the offender, regardless of his nationality.

The crime of espionage in North Korea corresponds to the act of spying on military secrets, and or spying on, collecting, leaking, or relaying state secrets to achieve the aims as specified in Article 4 of the NSL. However, unlike the North Korean criminal code, the NSL does not strictly control simple economic, scientific, and cultural information.

The purpose of meting out the stern punishment of death and the confiscation of all the property of the offender is to maintain the Kim Il-song dictatorship by tightly severing and sealing off the North Korean society from the outside world. By blocking the inflow of information from and its outflow to the outside world, North Korea has been converted to a gigantic human animal farm, where the people have no choice but to blindly follow only the instructions of Kim Il-song and his son, the chuche ideology, and party policy.

Crime of Armed Infiltration

The crime of armed infiltration as stipulated in Article 57 of the North Korean criminal code refers to an act of violating, attacking, or plundering the territory of North Korea by counterrevolutionary forces for the purpose of overthrowing, disturbing, or weakening the state sovereignty.

The following acts constitute the crime of armed intrusion: an act of infiltrating the North Korean territory in groups, or disturbing social order, or raiding or plundering property in North Korea, at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists or their followers.

The punishment is death and the confiscation of all the property of the offender.

This crime corresponds to the act of accomplishing the goals as specified in Paragraph 1, Section 1, Article 4 of the NSL. The NSL provides death or life imprisonment for anyone who as a member of an anti-state organization or under its orders, perpetrates a hostile act against the ROK Government in collusion with a foreigner.

The NSL expressly limits the scope of the crime to acts related to anti-state organizations. On the contrary, the North Korean provisions are extensively applicable to acts related to the United States and other imperialists and their followers, regarding the whole freedom camp as hostile forces. Apparently, this is intended to keep the inhabitants of North Korea constantly on alert and to stir up bellicosity among them, and plant in them a sense of emergency.

Crime of Armed Interference, of Inducing Severance of Foreign Relations

The crime of armed interference and that of obstruction to foreign relationships as stipulated in Article 51 of the North Korean criminal code refer respectively to an act of armed interference by foreigners against North Korea and their act of trying to induce foreign countries to sever their diplomatic relations with North Korea. These crimes are applicable only to foreigners.

It constitutes the crime of armed interference when a foreigner tries to seduce a foreign country or its organization (group), by means of persuasion or by providing funds, to carry out armed interference against North Korea. The following acts constitute the crime of obstructing foreign relations: an act by a foreigner of trying to seduce foreign countries to sever all their relations, including diplomatic relations, with North Korea; and all acts interfering in the internal affairs of North Korea by means other than armed interference.

These crimes are punishable by death and the confiscation of all the property of the offender.

In the case of crimes committed abroad by foreigners, Article 6 of our criminal code provides a very limited punishment for foreign offenders, taking into consideration the pertinent laws and provisions of criminal punishment in the countries where the crime has been committed. This is diametrically opposite to North Korea's self-conceited, self-righteous attitude as if it intended to punish the whole world unlimitedly and uniformly, despite it having no criminal jurisdiction abroad.

Therefore, because of North Korea's legislative attitude of ignoring the sovereignty of foreign countries, and because of its indifference to the rudimentary framework of international relations, the North Korean criminal code poses a problem to the international community. North Korea is an outlaw. This stems from the ignorant monarchical thinking of Kim Il-song himself, who grew up and became the dictator with little knowledge of the theories of communism and law, and with no experience whatsoever in dealing with the international community.

Crime Against Socialist State, Revolutionary People

The crime of opposing the socialist state or being hostile to a revolutionary people as stipulated in Article 55 of the North Korean criminal code refers to an act of opposing the building of the socialist state, the cornerstone of the WPK program, and an act hostile to the revolutionary people fighting against imperialism. The offenders are subject to punishment regardless of their nationality.

The following acts constitute this crime: an act of opposing the socialist state, the communist movement, and the working-class movement, or an act hostile to the revolutionary people engaged in an anti-imperialist, anti-U.S. struggle.

As for punishment, depending on the substance of the hostile acts, the provisions on the counterrevolutionary crimes are applied, and punishment prescribed in these provisions is meted out. For instance, when a foreigner or a native North Korean slanders the revolutionary fighters, he is subject to death and the confiscation of his property under the provisions on the crime of hostile propaganda and agitation; when he commits an act of terrorism, punishment is meted out to him under the provisions on the crime of terrorism.

In the ROK, which subscribes to the principle of the criminal legal system, there is no such crime.

The North Korean provisions on the crime against the socialist state and against the revolutionary people are general and declarative stipulations designed to implement proletarian internationalism and serve as a typical example of abstract and ambiguous legislation which is a far cry from the requirements of concreteness and clarity for provisions of criminal punishment. As such they represent a law which is partial to the professional revolutionary struggle of the communists and which is necessary for no other purpose than to maintain the socialist dictatorship in order to pursue their revolutionary strategy.

Problems Involving North Korean Criminal Code

Of the counterrevolutionary crimes under the North Korean criminal code, we have just analyzed the crimes undermining the internal security and the crimes undermining the external security of the state sovereignty and the socialist system.

The following are some problems concerning the provisions on the counterrevolutionary crimes undermining the internal and external security of the North Korean state sovereignty and the socialist system:

—The criminal code completely forecloses freedom of assembly and demonstration in their sources by making even an anti-government assembly or demonstration punishable by death and the confiscation of all of the property of the offender, branding it as a conspiracy to overthrow the state sovereignty.
—The criminal code represents a primitive and cruel penal code which subjects all offenders to capital punishment and the confiscation of all their property without regard to the degree of seriousness of the offense.
—Even an act of violence resulting in minor injuries is punishable by capital punishment and the confiscation of all property.
—By providing the harshest punishment for an act of slandering Kim Il-song and his son, the criminal code ensures the cult of personality as an institution.
—Even a simple refusal to obey orders to return home is punishable as a crime against the fatherland.
—No political asylum is tolerated.
—Without regard to extenuating circumstances, all crimes are punishable by death.
—Capital punishment is meted out to offenders without regard to the personal bondage of blood relationship.
—Crimes by military men are covered by the ordinary criminal code.
—All separate crimes which are subject to the death penalty are lumped together.
—The confiscation of property is made a necessary adjunct to capital punishment, leaving no room for mitigation of the guilt in consideration of extenuating circumstances.
—The criminal code provides punishment even for crimes committed abroad by foreigners, and thus ignores international relations by arbitrarily expanding its application.
—The criminal code disregards the principle of legality by providing general, abstract provisions aimed at unifying the country under communism.

Two-Faced Ploy To Cover Up North Korean Criminal Code While Demanding Repeal of ROK NSL

North Korea has taken every opportunity to demand repeal of our NSL, claiming that it poses an obstacle to inter-Korean dialogues and national reunification; while attempting to sow seeds of discord in South Korea in collusion with some of the pro-North Korean leftist forces.

An examination of the North Korean criminal code, particularly a general survey of the counterrevolutionary crimes as stipulated in it, reveals that North Korea has a legal system aimed at overthrowing the ROK Government by armed violence as its ultimate goal.

For this reason, the substance of the North Korean criminal code is permeated with undemocratic, anti-human right, and anti-reunification characteristics. The North Korean criminal code is characterized by the cruelty of punishment, and it permits arbitrary analogical constructions and the retroactive application of provisions and provides capital punishment even for preliminary or attempted offenses. It stigmatizes South Korea as an "enemy" and makes the crime of treason applicable to all South Korean citizens and all defenders of the system of free democracy and has arbitrary provisions for punishing opponents of the international socialist and communist movement. The North Korean criminal code as jurisprudence wantonly violates human rights.

North Korea has taken every opportunity to vehemently demand the abolition of the ROK NSL for these false, deceptive purposes: first, to use this demand for the purpose of forestalling the danger of collapse of its ruling structure by blocking step-by-step exchanges and dialogues between North and South; second, to cause division between the ROK Government and the dissident forces for the ultimate purpose of accelerating internal discord, confusion, and schism within our society; third, to conceal the uncivilized and primitive North Korean criminal code from the international community.

An additional purpose is to reunify the country by bringing South Korea under communism, through its unilateral, arbitrary demand for the ideological disarmament of the ROK to render it defenseless.

This should awaken the leftist forces who are demanding the repeal of the NSL to the depth of the imprudence of their demand and their behavior as fellow travelers of North Korea in its wild ambition.

In conclusion, we would say that it behooves North Korea to come to realize their transparent foolishness in demanding the repeal of the NSL and revise its criminal code—which is the most evil of all laws in the whole world and which is the greatest obstacle to national reunification—in such a way as to protect human rights, and then enter inter-Korean negotiations with sincerity to discuss the security-related laws of the North and the South.

Investment Made in Phone Line to Japan, USSR

SK2703020191 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] South Korea has decided to put $50 million into construction of the Trans-Soviet Line (TSL) and to jointly conduct a route survey with Japan on the section connecting Korea, the Soviet Union and Japan, Korea Telecom said yesterday.

The state-run company said it would conclude a protocol with Japan in April on sharing the cost of construction, maintenance and repair of the section, to be jointly constructed with Japan. The two countries will begin cable-laying work in 1993 for completion in early 1999.

Korea Telecom, which represents Korea in the international telecommunication consortium, hosted meetings of the legal, technical and business-working subcommittees of the TSL steering committee and that of the steering committee last week.

In the meeting, it was agreed to use an undersea branching unit instead of undersea multiplex equipment to set up the 1,147-km fourth section of the TSL between Ullung Island (Korea), Nakhodka (the Soviet Union) and Hamada (Japan) for its price and quality advantages.

The branching unit, to be installed 45km east of Ullung, can accommodate 7,680 circuits simultaneously by means of 565 mega bit per second (BPS) grade optical fiber line.

Originally, $21 million was to be put into the Korea-Soviet line and $26 million into the Japan-Soviet line but the total construction cost of the fourth section is expected to increase now that a Korea-Japan line has been added.

The thorny matter of exporting telecommunication equipment to the Soviet Union has been reviewed in light of regulations adopted by the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) but the final decision is likely to come at a high-level COCOM meeting in Paris in April.

The TSL is to use a 665 Mega BPS grade system, but selling a 90 Mega BPS grade system to the Soviet Union is banned under current COCOM regulations.

The Soviet Union is to use its in-house developed 140 Mega BPS grade system in the third section between Nakhodka and Moscow if the original plan is blocked by the COCOM regulations, but it may make Korea Telecom reconsider the whole project in perspective of economic efficiency, a Korea Telecom official said.

At present, the first section between the Soviet Union and Denmark and the second section between the Soviet Union, Turkey and Italy are under promotion irrespective of COCOM regulations, while the third section is under a detailed route survey.

Besides which, the Seoul meeting approved the additional entry of Turkey and decided to pin down the scale of investment in the business working group meeting in Paris in August-December. In May, a subcommittee is to meet.

With the entry of Turkey, the whole length of the TSL is 18,134km, up from 14,000km, and participating firms increased to 13 from 12 countries, including Korea, the Soviet Union, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Italy, Germany, Denmark (two firms), France, Spain and Australia.

Accord Reached on Establishing Factory in USSR

SK2703085691 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 23 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] The Korean-developed digital switchboard systems—TDX-1B—will be exported to the Soviet Union by establishing a joint factory in the Soviet Union.

On 22 March, Samsung Electronics revealed that it discussed the issue of exporting TDX with the delegation led by Kudryavtsev, Soviet Minister of Communications, and that it agreed to establish a joint factory in Pskov City 200 km southwest of Leningrad.

The factory, which will be established jointly with the leading Soviet communications company ATE, will produce 1,250,000 circuits of TDX a year, with full capacity being reached in 1992. It is guaranteed that all products will be supplied to the Soviet Union. It has been learned that the product will fulfill up to 25 percent of the Soviet Union's plan to modernize its communication networks.

Samsung Electronics will install 2,000 circuits of TDX-1B in Leningrad by August for test usage. After this, Samsung Electronics will immediately embark on on-the-spot production of the TDX-1B circuits. It will also supply 300,000 circuits by 1992, 500,000 circuits by 1993, 700,000 circuits by 1994, and 1,250,000 circuits by 1996.

TDX-1B is a medium-capacity digital switchboard which the ROK is the 10th country to produce. It can transmit 22,000 telephone circuits at a time. Its price will be approximately 20,000 won per circuit.

In the meantime, Samsung Electronics promotes exports of facsimiles, telephones, and other communication equipment to the Soviet Union.

Third-Market Cooperation With Hungary Planned

SK2703004491 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] Korean and Hungarian foreign ministers yesterday agreed to seek ways of jointly exploring third markets, especially those in the Middle East, during their talks at the Foreign Ministry, a ministry spokesman said.

Hungarian Minister Geza Jeszenszky hoped for more balanced trade between the two countries, which is in favor of Korea, he said.

Reaffirming Hungary's firm support for Seoul's bid to enter the United Nations, Jeszenszky expected the changes and reform now underway throughout the world to have an impact on North Korea soon.

"Reforms have already begun in Albania, often referred to as the last stronghold of Communism in Europe," the minister was quoted as saying. He further said that Hungarian parliamentarians would testify to the change of tide in the world to North Koreans when they visit

Pyongyang for a general assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) next month, the spokesman said.

Minister Yi of Korea highly appreciated Hungary's diplomatic initiative to open formal relations with Seoul before any other East European country and asked for Hungary's continued support for Seoul's U.N. membership, he said.

The two ministers signed a visa exemption agreement at the end of their talks. The accord allows stays of up to 90 days without visas beginning April 25.

Minister Jeszenszky flew into Seoul Monday for a four-day official visit at the invitation of Yi. He is the first Hungarian foreign minister to visit Seoul after Seoul and Budapest set up diplomatic relations in February, 1989.

Mongolians Studying Economy at Seoul Institute

SK2703030791 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (Supplement) in English 27 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Thirty Mongolians are now studying the Korean economy at the Korea Industrial Development Institute (KID) Training School, located at Socho-dong in Seoul.

The training mission from Mongolia, consisting of 30 high-ranking government officials whose ages range from 27 to 55 years, came to Korea on Mar. 12 and will leave Apr. 11 after visiting industrial complexes and rural villages across the country in addition to their studies in the classroom.

Besides lectures, visits and industrial tours, they will be given 'Sae Mael' (New Community Movement) education for four days from today to Mar. 30.

The training mission, headed by Vice Finance Minister Dalrain Davaa-sambuu [spelling as published], includes governors or vice governors of 18 provinces, Ulaanbaator mayor, vice trade-commerce minister and auditor of the central bank.

During their stay here until April 11, they will learn the economic experience Korea has achieved during the past decades.

The training here aims at solving various kinds of problems arising from the transition from communism to the free market system, acquiring the secrets of successful Korean economy and transferring technology and experiences in agriculture.

It is the first time that ex-communist Mongolia has ever dispatched high-ranking government officials to Korea en masse to study the Korean economy.

Sponsored by the privately-run Korea Industrial Development Institute (KID) the mission originally planned to look around rural villages and industrial complexes to get first-hand experiences.

Daewoo Negotiating More Contracts With Mongolia

SK2703025391 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES (Supplement) in English 27 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Daewoo Corporation (Pres. Yun Yong-suk) recently announced its exportation to Mongolia of 7,000 refrigerators worth US$1.1 million, which meant the corporation recorded Korea's first exports to the country.

Daewoo concluded an agreement on the exports with Mongolimpex, export-import corporation last November, according to a company spokesman.

The recent shipment of the 7,000 refrigerators was pursuant to the contract, but the DR-180C and FR-220R models were made at the Fuzhou Refrigerator Company in Fuzhou City, Fujian Province in China, the spokesman said.

That is, this trade with Mongolia will be made through tri-lateral means via China.

The Fuzhou refrigerator-manufacturing factory was established by Daewoo Electronics Co., a subsidiary of the Daewoo group, and two Chinese companies under a joint venture agreement in 1988, according to the spokesman.

He added, "dedicated on June 13, 1988, the plant has an annual production capacity of 300,000 units in a variety of models. With the establishment of the Fuzhou company, Daewoo Electronics became the first Korean firm to invest into and to operate a plant project in China.

Daewoo Corporation is also currently negotiating contracts for possible exports of TDX systems, telecommunications equipment and general merchandise to Mongolia, he said. Daewoo's trade with Mongolia began in early 1990 with an initial export of US $700,000 worth of disposable hypodermic syringes, and trade is expected to increase rapidly in the future, the spokesman concluded.

KDB Issues Five-Year Floating Rate Loan

SK2703082091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0639 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—Korea Development Bank (KDB) issued a five-year floating rate note worth 150 million deutsche marks (93 million U.S. dollars) on Tuesday, a bank spokesman said Wednesday.

The interest rate is 3.16 percent plus LIBOR (the London Interbank Offered Rate) and the note was issued at face value, not discounted, the spokesman said. KDB will convert the money into U.S. dollars before transferring it to Korea, he said.

All the underwriters are German banks, including KDB's locally incorporated affiliate KDB Deutschland.

So far this year, KDB has raised over 800 million dollars by issuing bonds in the United States and Japan.

Reportage, Commentary on Elections Continue

No Tae-u Comments on Voting

SK2703002691 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday he is very happy to see the revival of local autonomy during his tenure. "We usher in a new chapter in our democracy today when local elections are held for the first time in 30 years," No said while visiting the ward council hall of Chung-ku, central Seoul.

"I'm pleased to note that I have come to honor my promise to reinstate the tradition of local self-government," the President said.

After looking around the local assembly hall, No dropped in at the Chongwadae press center and chatted with reporters on the elections. He joked that he felt somewhat sorry that he could not cast a vote. There was no voting in his district of Chongun-dong, Chongno-ku, as the single candidate there has been elected uncontested.

The President looked upbeat, saying he thinks that local elections this time have been conducted in a fair and clean manner. "Some may say that the atmosphere was somewhat rigid, but I believe most people are satisfied to see that the elections are held calmly and free of major incidents," he remarked.

"We have quietly raised the flag of election revolution," he stated, adding the local elections should serve as a model for coming elections.

"On when to call local elections in six large cities, including Seoul, and nine provinces, No reiterated his view that they should be held at least by June.

Asked whether the large-unit elections would be held as calmly as yesterday's small-unit elections, the President remarked: "I know there is some concern. But I am convinced that if there is consensus among the people for fair, clean and less costly elections, politicians would have no other choice but to respect it."

Political parties are allowed to field candidates in the large-unit elections, while their participation is banned in small-unit elections.

No also indicated that he would try his best to hold elections for local administration chiefs while he is in office.

On the proposed revision of parliamentary electoral systems, he commented: "I will not say here what's good and what's wrong. I only want to express my hope that the ruling and opposition parties will work out the most desirable formats after carefully studying our culture, history and the systems of other countries."

When a reporter raised the question of punishing ministers and officials responsible for tap water contamination in Taegu and Kyongsang provinces, No said, "Why are you talking about firing people today when the nation is in a festive mood."

After the conversation, No had lunch with reporters at the dining hall of the press center.

'Record Low Voter Turnout' Noted

SK2703001591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 27 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] Koreans elected thousands of local council members for the first time in 30 years yesterday, but the elections hailed as a stepping stone to grass-roots democracy were marred by a record low voter turnout.

Turnout stood at 55 percent, the lowest in Korean history, reflecting widespread public apathy over the local elections that followed a string of corruption scandals.

As expected, the turnout in large cities was much lower than provincial areas. According to a tally by the Central Election Management Committee (CEMC), Seoul posted the lowest voter turnout of 42.3 percent, while Kyongsangbuk-to reported the highest, 70.3 percent.

Taegu, the birthplace of President No Tae-u, registered the third lowest turnout, 44.5 percent. The city has recently been hit by tap water pollution.

The low turnout falls far below the 75.8 percent recorded in the 1988 parliamentary elections and 89.2 percent in the presidential election in December 1987.

Ballot-counting continued well into the morning. Official results are expected early this morning in most electoral districts. As of midnight, over 300 candidates were assured of election.

President No said, "We usher in a new chapter in our democracy today, when local elections are held for the first time in 30 years."

Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung said, "Today is the day for the resurrection of genuine democracy."

Most observers had predicted that the voter turnout would hover around 50 percent because of little public interest in the elections to form legislative councils in 260 small- and medium-sized cities, counties and wards in six big cities.

In opinion polls, voters said they did not know the candidates, lacked understanding of local autonomy and distrusted politicians.

Thousands of joint campaign rallies nationwide drew small crowds. The Suso bribery scandal, implicating five lawmakers and a long-time presidential aide, rocked the nation recently and added to public suspicion of politicians.

The Suso case came on the heels of a junket involving three legislators accused of taking bribes from an association of Korean car makers.

Concerned about a low voter turnout, CEMC hired 300 trucks and cars with loudspeakers to roam the streets urging voters to go to the polls.

There were 9,963 candidates for 4,304 council seats nationwide. This resulted in a moderate competition ratio of 2.31 to 1. Election management officials had forecast a competition ratio of 4 to 1 or higher.

According to CEMC, 182 candidates dropped out of the elections, 12 candidates were disqualified and two candidates died.

The number of uncontested winners decreased by one to 614 as Kim Pan-su, the sole candidate of a district in Kumi, Kyongsangbuk-to, was arrested Monday on charges of buying off another candidate, a CEMC spokesman said.

Although political parties were not authorized to nominate candidates, the local elections appeared to be a showdown mainly between the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy. Large numbers of party members ran as independents. Competition was neck and neck in many electoral district, particularly those in Seoul.

Ruling party officials said they are confident of scoring a clean victory in the elections. Well over half of the candidates were reported to be ruling party members and pro-DLP figures.

The main opposition PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, predicted victory in parts of Seoul and most of the 50 constituencies in the party's stronghold of Cholla provinces.

The local councils are required to convene within 25 days after the elections and designate chairmen and vice chairmen.

The revival of local self-government was one of the promises made by President No when he took office in February 1988.

Local assembly elections in large districts—nine provinces and six big cities (Seoul, Pusan, Taegu, Inchon, Kwangju and Taejon)—are to take place in May or June. Political parties can field candidates for large-unit local elections, whereas they are not authorized to do so in small-area elections.

Local assembly elections were suspended in 1961 by the military government.

Voter Turnout

Cities & Provinces	Eligible Voters	Voters	Percentage	Turnout in the 1988 Legislative Elections(%)
Total	24,067,144	13,239,596	55.0	75.8
Seoul	5,689,167	2,407,602	42.3	69.3
Pusan	1,952,310	970,091	49.7	77.7
Taegu	770,241	342,391	44.5	76.8
Inchon	926,008	395,098	42.7	70.1
Kwangju	647,569	329,018	50.8	77.9
Taejon	498,791	244,644	49.0	*
Kyonggi-to	3,878,400	2,024,903	52.2	71.3
Kangwon-to	956,929	657,877	68.7	82.0
Chungchong-puk-to	765,652	497,213	64.9	83.1
Chungchong-nam-to	1,150,928	774,559	67.3	78.8
Chollabuk-to	1,243,946	808,957	65.0	80.0
Chollanam-to	1,476,583	1,025,472	69.4	80.3
Kyongsang-buk-to	1,707,899	1,199,922	70.3	83.3
Kyongsang-nam-to	2,172,831	1,400,640	64.5	79.9
Cheju-to	229,950	161,209	70.1	82.6

*Taejon belonged to Chungchongnam-to in the 1988 parliamentary elections.

Ruling Party's 'Massive Victory'

SK2703001091 Seoul YONHAP in English 2346 GMT 26 Mar 91

[By Kim Tae-sik]

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (OANA-YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) headed for a massive victory in South Korea's first local elections in 30 years Tuesday with some 80 percent of the successful candidates classified by the party as either DLP members or pro-DLP independents.

The DLP led the main opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) across the country, except for South Cholla Province, a stronghold of PPD leader Kim Tae-chung, according to unofficial tallies by political parties.

As of 6 A.M. Wednesday, when 85 percent of the ballots were counted, a total of 3,806 candidates secured their seats in the 280 local councils in cities, counties and municipal wards to be composed of 4,304 members. The 3,806 winners included 614 candidates running uncontested.

The final voter turnout was tallied at 55.0 percent, a record low participation, the Central Election Management Committee [CEMC] said. The rate is far below the 75.8 percent turnout registered in the parliamentary elections in 1988 and fall short of the 60 percent originally expected by the CEMC.

The ruling party displayed overwhelming strength throughout the country except for South Cholla Province.

A tentative tally by the ruling party showed that 48.8 percent of the elected candidates had DLP membership, 18.3 percent were PPD members.

The splinter Democratic Party accounted for 0.54 percent while the remaining 32.4 percent were independents, according to the government party.

The ruling party was strong in Seoul with a victory rate of 52.4 percent and 23.7 percent of the DLP candidates succeeded in North Cholla Province, a traditional stronghold of the PPD.

The PPD, which hoped to win about 40 percent of seats in Seoul got only 18.3 percent. While PPD candidates swept the South Cholla Province and Kwangju City, few PPD candidates were successful in other areas.

Polls opened at 7 A.M. Tuesday at 13,185 balloting stations across the nation to elect 3,689 local council members, plus 614 running uncontested. Ballot counting began around 7:30 P.M.

As interest and enthusiasm among citizens was low during the 18-day election campaign, the voter turnout rate plunged to the record lowest rate.

A total of 13,238,308 voters, 55.0 percent out of the total 24,067,144 eligible voters, cast their ballots, the CEMC said.

Seoul recorded the lowest rate of 42.3 percent while North Kyongsang Province was the highest at 70.3 percent.

Cheju Island was the second with 70.1 percent, followed by South Cholla Province with 69.4 percent, Kangwon Province with 68.7 percent.

The councils are to convene with [as received] 25 days of the election, after picking chairmen and vice chairmen.

For the 4,304 local council seats, a total of 10,159 candidates registered. During the election campaign, 182 dropped out of the race, another two died and another 12 were disqualified to reduce the number of contenders to 9,963, for an average competition rate of 2.3 to 1.

President No Tae-u described Tuesday's polls as the fairest election in history and called it a sign of democracy taking root.

Elections in bigger constituencies—provinces and the six large cities—are planned within the first half of the year, probably in June.

Results, Importance Analyzed

SK2703034691 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT 27 Mar 91

[By Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Seoul, March 27 (YONHAP)—On the morning after the first local elections in 30 years, South Korean politicians began to assess the extent of their triumphs and defeats Wednesday.

The government's Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) was quick to claim a landslide victory, with significant wins in strongly pro-opposition constituencies. The main oppositon party for peace and democracy settled for results that were well below expectations, and the splinter democratic party ended the race as an also-ran.

Party officials stayed up all night Tuesday as the results came in even though parties were theoretically barred from the contest as they could not field candidates. But as candidates were openly affiliated with certain parties, party leaders claimed the elections would serve as a litmus test.

Tuesday's election was also considered an important prelude to elections of administrations in major cities and provinces scheduled before the end of June, when the parties will be allowed to nominate candidates.

The DLP began with an edge since it had nearly 80 percent of the candidates, as either party members or pro-DLP. As early results tipped in their favor, party officials said the victory was assured.

DLP Secretary-General Kim Yun-hwan, Vice Secretary-General Chang Kyong-wu and spokesman Pak Hui-tae led the election watch at party headquarters.

The best news for the DLP, or the worst for the PPD, came in at around 5 A.M., when with 80 percent of the ballot counted the ruling party had taken 23.7 percent of the seats in North Cholla Province. The southwestern province is the crucible of PPD support and has always been fervently loyal to PPD head Kim Tae-chung, a local boy.

"The early results are extremely interesting," Chang said of the returns from North Cholla.

DLP victories in the Kyongsang provinces, fierce rivals to Cholla, came as no surprise. But the party's unexpected success in Seoul, another common base for the opposition, put the icing on the cake. After excluding pro-DLP independents, ruling camp candidates still won more than 52 percent of the seats in the capital.

In Pusan and Taegu, the second and third largest cities, the PPD suffered near total defeat.

DLP spokesman Pak, leaning back to reflect on the string of triumphs, said Tuesday's was a "model" election the second local elections in large constituencies would follow the same pattern.

The PPD was busier analyzing its losses than counting victories, and desperately hoping that the results were not an indicator of what was to come in the later local elections. The blow was heaviest in Seoul, where the opposition anticipated at least 60 percent of the 50 local council seats. It was stopped at 30 percent, and did even worse in other large cities.

The only good news was better than expected performances in Kangwon and Kyonggi Provinces, with a number of winners in pro-DLP South Kyongsang Province and on Cheju Island.

Party leaders blamed the rout on low voter turnout. Only 55 percent of eligible voters cast ballots, with Seoul registering the lowest turnout at 42.3 percent. "The turnout could not but have been low in an election where most of the candidates were unknown and public knowledge of local autonomy was low," one party official said. The apathy in Seoul definitely contributed to the PPD's loss, he said.

The low turnout was an embarrassment to its main beneficiary, the government party. The PPD is already trying to make an issue of it, saying it was a sign that the public distrusts and is indifferent to the ruling party.

Tuesday's election, the first in the series of votes that will bring back local autonomy after a 30-year absence, was announced earlier this month despite a wide consensus that the elections in both small and large constituencies should be held simultaneously later in the year.

* 'Gloomy Forecast' for Labor Negotiations

*912C0160A Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
14 Feb 91 p 6*

[Article by reporter Pak Yong-chol: "Labor Troubles Loom Ahead"]

[Text] The Daewoo Shipyard workers' recent, total walkout reveals a generally gloomy forecast for this year's springtime labor negotiations.

On 13 February, the sixth day of the shipyard workers' walkout, the chairman of the corporation, Kim Woo-chung, went to see the leader of the labor union, Paek Sun-hwan, to try to narrow the gap between the two sides on such issues as "no pay without work" and "formation of a disciplinary committee on labor disputes." An agreement was not reached, however.

Meanwhile, the government and business community regard this situation as the directional signal of this year's labor dispute. They are anxious to prevent its unrest from spreading quickly to Hyundai Heavy Machinery and the rest of the shipbuilding and manufacturing industries.

The issues of guaranteeing workers' physical safety and forming disciplinary committees composed of an equal number of management and labor union members stand out as important items in this year's labor dispute.

These issues have become the focal point of dispute at Daewoo Shipbuilding and Hyundai Heavy Machinery. At Hyundai, the problem regarding reinstatement of fired or jailed workers is already being negotiated.

The government, on the other hand, is still adamant in its position that the policy of "no pay without work" as well as personnel and management rights must remain the domain of company management. It intends to subdue any illegal disorder regarding these problems from the start by the use of its civil rights act.

Regarding the wage dispute, the government is also firm in its policy that companies which cannot maintain a "single digit wage increase" will be disqualified from receiving such government aid as "industrial development funds" and "industrial restructuring funds."

The government is fully aware that Daewoo's unrest can easily spread to the rest of the manufacturing industry, and it is gearing up to crack down on any labor trouble at the start with full public knowledge.

The government expects the federation of labor unions in large industries, which was formed last year, to become quite mobilized and active this year, stirring up "political fights" at each union's local autonomous election.

Because of our unstable economy, exacerbated by various factors such as the war in the Persian Gulf, the unfavorable result of the Uruguay conference, a generally stagnant export industry, and the price instability of recent years, the public's reaction to any serious labor unrest is expected to be rather unsympathetic this year.

The negative outcome of the subway workers' votes on a strike last month as well as the decision by Pohang Steel Workers' Union to break away from the federation of labor unions in large industries put a damper on the momentum of spreading labor unrest. Taking advantage of this unexpected break, the government hopes to maintain control over the labor situation.

It is feared, however, that the government's excessively strong action may actually backfire and that it will bring about some adverse side effects. Due to the recent action against the labor leaders who attended a federation of labor unions in large industries training session, the labor unions of Daewoo Automobile and Daewoo Precision Industry have entered into a group action since last December. Moreover, the rest of the labor unions belonging to the federation have also been meeting, showing signs of entering into group actions.

According to some people knowledgeable about the labor movement, various business scandals which have come to light one after another since the beginning of this year will negatively influence the labor negotiations.

The people who attended the meeting for the key office-level leaders of 30 large companies, organized under the auspices of the Federation of Korean Businesses, expressed their difficulties in implementing the government's hard-line policy in the negotiation process between management and the labor unions.

They also pointed out that the ambiguity of the law regarding personnel and management rights is a cause of dispute between management and labor unions. They urge that the government clarify each of the present regulations of the labor law.

Moreover, they think that the government's policy of maintaining "a single digit wage increase" merely forces the industry to set up special compensations and bonuses for the workers to make up the difference in the wage increase.

Although last year's official wage increase in our industry was 9.1 percent, the actual increase in workers' wages was 22.1 percent because of the special benefits and bonuses given to the workers.

The credibility of a "single digit wage increase" has also diminished.

In the past, the price index stayed within a single digit number. Last year, however, the inflation rate jumped to a 10 percent level. Since the beginning of this year, prices have been soaring still higher, and it will be even more difficult to control workers' wage demands this spring.

Since labor negotiations take place at each manufacturing industry, the government should merely provide the industry with basic principles of labor law, rather than oversee the actual implementation of each regulation. Ideally, the government should only create an environment so that management and the unions can work out their own solutions through negotiation.

Government Decides To Produce 120 F-16 Fighters

SK2803104691 Seoul YONHAP in English 1024 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—Defense Minister Yi Chong- ku announced Thursday South Korea would produce 120 F-16 Fighting Falcons of General Dynamics Corp by importing its technological know-how for the multi-billion dollar Korea fighter program.

In a press conference capping the months-long controversy over the change of fighter type, Yi said the choice of F-16 Fighting Falcons over McDonnell Douglas' F/A-18 Hornets would bring an overall cost reduction of about 2 billion dollars for the next 30 years.

"The government chose F/A-18 Hornets for the Korea fighter program on Dec. 20, 1989, but has reviewed the program due to problems related to the defense budget. It has been finally decided to change the type of fighter from F/A-18 to F-16," Yi said.

He said the review, begun in October last year, has found the F- 16 Falcons to be competitive with F/A-18 Hornets in various capabilities, and better in terms of training, and effectiveness at times of Korea-U.S. joint operations.

An estimated 5.2 billion dollars will be needed to manufacture F- 16 Fighting Falcons by introducing the technology of General Dynamics, 1.4 billion less than F/A-18 Hornets, he said.

Air Force Interest in German Aircraft Reported

SK2703032191 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in Korean 24 Mar 91 pp 58-62

[Article by U Chong-chang: "Korean Air Force Moves To Purchase Tornado Aircraft for Electronic Warfare"]

[Text] At about 1350 on 8 March, men with short hair and small briefcases filed into the Kukhwa A room, basement level one, of the Hilton Hotel on Seoul's Namsan. Field grade Air Force officers in dress uniform were also visible. Individuals in civilian clothes with short hair led one to believe that they were active duty military officials as well.

The Kukhwa A room was laid out like a lecture room. Desks and chairs were available to seat approximatly 40 people, with various documents and writing instruments laid out at each position. There was a large projection screen toward the rostrum. Next to that three foreigners were standing, greeting the guests as they arrived.

This was the "Tornado ECR [Electronic Combat and Reconnaissance] Fighter Briefing" put on by the MBB [Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm] Aerospace Company of Germany. The foreigners were Germans, and one of them was an employee of the German Embassy in Korea. The briefing was presented by individuals who were visiting Korea to participate in the "German High Technology Exposition" [Technogerma] held at the Korea Exhibition [KOEX] center in Samsong-tong, Seoul.

The briefing started at 1400 sharp, and began with a briefing by officials of the jet fighter division of MBB on the Electronic Combat and Reconnaissance fighter aircraft "Tornado ECR" capabilities, features, and technical data. This was followed by a question and answer period, with the entire meeting lasting about two hours. Officials from the Electronic Warfare [EW] group within the Ministry of National Defense [MND], as well as air force officers from the MND's Intelligence Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff attended the briefing.

Korean officials in attendance asked detailed questions concerning the EW intelligence collection capabilities of the Tornado. The Germans quickly answered those questions which could be addressed openly; when sensitive questions involving military secrets were asked, they provided classifed documents to only the official who asked the question to read. Although the ROK Air Force [ROKAF] officers who attended the briefing did so out of increased interests in EW weaponry after seeing its capabilities displayed during the Gulf war, a more basic objective was to ascertain the capabilities of the Tornado ECR.

A Combat Aircraft Which Compensates for the Vulnerabilities of the ROKAF's F-16s

The Tornado ECR is one of the combat aircraft which the ROKAF has been carefully watching for the past several years. The attention of the ROKAF is focused on the ability of the Tornado to compensate for deficiencies in the state- of-the-art F-16 fighter aircraft which the ROKAF now possesses. In spite of the many advantages the ROKAF's F-16's possess, there are vulnerabilities. An especially shocking fact is that the F-16 of the ROKAF, although a similar model as the USAF's F-16, is not the same as the USAF's aircraft in capability.

The government has been the only one to keep silent concerning the fact that "the F-16 aircraft which the ROKAF possesses is different from those of the USAF as far as capabilities, even though the models are the same." This is an open secret, however, among Air Force officers and, subsequently, ROKAF officers are extremely resentful of the U.S. attitude on this matter. One reserve officer who graduated from the Air Force Academy and served as a jet fighter pilot revealed the following details concerning this topic.

—Q: Many Air Force officers are saying that the F-16 which our Air Force possesses is different from that of the USAF F-16.

—A: That is a fact. Although the model is the same, there are two major differences. The reason there is so much talk about this fact is because these are not minor problems but rather decisive vulnerabilities.

—Q: By similar model, you mean...

—A: There are four models of F-16: the F-16A, B, C, and D. The C and D models are newer than the A and B. During the mid-1980's our government purchased the F-16C and D models from the United States. The F-16C seats one while the D model is a two-seater."

—Q: Specifically, how are the ROKAF and USAF models different?

—A: One of the differences involves the ability of the aircraft to mount the LANTIRN (Low Altitude Navigation and Targeting Infrared System for Night) equipment which allows for nighttime low-altitude navigation. Although the F-16 is clearly an outstanding fighter aircraft, its weakness lies in nighttime and inclement weather combat. The LANTIRN is designed to rectify this shortcoming. The LANTIRN is an essential component in today's modern electronic war. The USAF's F-16C and D models both are capable of mounting the LANTIRN equipment, but the ROKAF version is totally unable to do so.

"The second problem lies in weapons systems. The F-16 is equipped with the Sidewinder air-to-air missile. The Sidewinder, as a heat-seeking missile, shoots down enemy planes by tracking the heat which is emitted by enemy aircraft engines. This falls under conventional attack methods. Modern combat aircraft do not use heat-seeking methods but rather are equipped with the AMRAAM or Sparrow missile which use new guidance systems. To understand both the AMRAAM and the Sparrow missiles, one can view them as being similar to the Patriot missile which exhibited its strengths during the Gulf war. Both the AMRAAM and the Sparrow are a new generation of missiles more powerful than the Sidewinder."

After the Mid-Air Explosion of the KAL, Former-President Chon Considers Symbolic Retaliation

"With the development of the Sparrow and AMRAAM missiles, the F-16 was reconfigured to allow for mounting these weapons. The USAF's F-16C and D models have no problems in mounting these missiles; however, the export versions which the ROKAF possesses are designed so as not to allow the mounting of the AMRAAM and Sparrow. Thus, even though the ROKAF's F-16C and D models are the same as the USAF's, differences such as these exist."

—Q: Knowing this, did our Air Force merely sit by idly?

—A: Although the issue was raised, the United States simply dismisses the question by saying, "The U.S. Air Force in Korea has it, why would Korea need it?"

—Q: What do you believe the reason is for the United States to allow for such differences between the aircraft?

—A: It does not seem as though the United States is discriminating solely against Korea. The United States does not provide state-of-the-art EW technology for fighter aircraft to NATO allies such as Great Britain, Germany, or France, or Japan either. My guess is that the United States is concerned that this modern EW weaponry will fall into the enemy's hands. In the case of Korea, along with this reason it also seems that the United States is preventing Korea from being able to conduct a first strike."

In one word, the ROKAF's F-16 possesses only the very basic capabilities and equipment of the F-16. Such deficiencies in capabilities became problematic at the end of November 1987 with the bombing of KAL Flight 858. After the KAL aircraft was blown up in mid-air by North Korean agent Kim Hyon-hui, the Korean Government is known to have considered a "symbolic" retaliation using the F-16. However, the ROKAF reported that such a retaliation was not possible using the F-16 which the ROKAF possessed.

One expert within the Air Force explained the situation at the time in the following manner.

"At the time of the mid-air bombing of the KAL aircraft, Chon Tu-hwan called together the top brass of the ROKAF and discussed a plan for a "symbolic" retaliatory response. President Chon's concept involved the selection and surprise retaliatory bombing of a less-politically sensitive military facility within North Korea. I know that the target designated by President Chon was one of the safe-houses used for the training of North Korean agents. Chon thought that such an attack would be possible using the F-16.

"However, then-Air Force Chief of Staff General So Tong-ryol reported that with the existing Korean air power, such a plan was not possible. For such as mission to be executed successfully, the optimal scenario calls for 'a surprise attack using low-altitude flight during a moonless night.' He stated that such a mission was impossible since the ROKAF F-16's could not be equipped with the LANTIRN navigational equipment. Chief of Staff So mentioned that instead, the Tornado could successfully conduct such a mission while rendering North Korea's air defense network powerless. The Tornado had already been receiving attention within the ROKAF for some time. President Chon, having received this report, instructed the proper authorities to work toward purchasing the Tornado."

The Tornado is an all-weather aircraft which was developed taking into consideration the mountainous terrain and inclement weather of Great Britain, Germany, and Italy. The Tornado has the offensive capability to conduct high-speed infiltration at low altitudes (60m above ground) and deliver a large-quantity of bombs and missiles on the target. Former German Prime Minister Schmidt even praised this jet fighter as "the greatest joint technology project since the birth of Christ."

"If You Send Air Force Pilots to Germany, We Will Assume the Responsibility for Training Them in Electronic Warfare"

After finishing its maiden flight in 1974, the Tornado went into production in 1976. There are currently three versions of the aircraft: the strike bomber (IDS), the interceptor (ADV), and the Electronic Warfare and Reconnaissance (ECR) version. The strike bomber and interceptor versions, still in their early stages, participated in the bombing of Iraqi air bases during the recent Gulf war.

The Tornado ECR, designed for Germany's own force enhancement, is an improvement by the Germans of the strike bomber. Two automatic guns which had been mounted under the frame of the plane were removed and EW equipment was installed in their place. Aside from that, there is not a single difference in the weapons systems of the two models. Development of the ECR commenced in 1986, with the aircraft being actually deployed in the German Air Force since the end of 1990. It was not used during the Gulf war. The aviation industry department of the ROKAF as well as the Agency for Defense Development began collecting information on the Tornado ECR beginning in 1986.

During a visit to Germany in August 1987, former ROKAF Chief of Staff Kim In-ki (age 58, national constituency representative from the Democratic Liberal Party) rode in the strike bomber version of the Tornado. Kim described the aircraft as "similar to the F-111 which was used by the United States in its raid on Libya." Kim remarked that when he was on active duty, several field grade ROKAF officers had ridden the Tornado and were aware of its capabilities.

The Tornado which had been the object of the ROKAF's attention for some time rose to be an object of the president's interest at the time of the KAL bombing. The "Tornado Project" was pursued separately from the "Next Generation Fighter Program," which was based on the U.S. F-18 as its main aircraft.

The plan of the government and ROKAF was to purchase one squadron of the aircraft (around twenty), and designate this squadron for special missions. The special missions which were considered were at the "preemptive strike" level, and are known to have included targets in North Korea such as major military facilities, nuclear facilities, and special buildings. Concurrent with this, South Korea also pursued the purchase of precision smart bombs which could be mounted on the Tornado. At the time, the Korean Government was moving at a quick tempo to try to obtain this hardware, and even within the ROKAF they believed that the Tornado and its accompanying armament would be deployed in early 1988.

Due to a variety of factors, which included pressure from the United States, a symbolic retaliation for the KAL bombing never was realized. The "Tornado Project" continued on in spite of this. It was simply pursued in secret, considering U.S. feelings.

In the fall of 1988, the Korean Government sent a letter to the company which sells the Tornado aircraft located in Munich Germany. The letter was inquiring as to the unit price of the aircraft. A price inquiry signifies the first step in the purchasing process. The Germans are known to have offered a unit price of 35 million dollars per aircraft.

A reserve ROKAF general noted, "At that time, the price of the Tornado was 10 million dollars more than the U.S. F-18. It was difficult to carry out talks over the aircraft not only because the price was higher, but because it was also questionable whether the German Government would indeed hand over the most current electronics technology." Rather than full-scale talks, Korea queried the intentions of the Germans to transfer the ECR technology, the essential parts of the Tornado ECR aircraft, through several unofficial channels.

The foreign press discovered these contacts between the Koreans and Germans over the technology transfer question. The British military affairs magazine JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY reported that the Korean Government was conducting talks with the Germans over the purchase of a number of Tornado ECR's amounting to several formations. However, even until this time Korea's formal moves had not gone beyond inquiring about the price of the aircraft. That was because there was a possibility that the seller would raise the price of the aircraft should they become fidgety over the negotiations.

It was also known that in the beginning, the Germans were not seriously considering the question of selling the Tornado to Korea. The defense industry only accounts for 2 percent of Germany's overall industry. Not only that, but 60 percent of Germany's trade is within the European Community (EC). Subsequently, Korea was outside of Germany's realm of interest at the time, and Germany displayed a rather passive response to Korea's purchase of the Tornado.

Then, in October 1990, the Germans began to show a more positive attitude. While visiting Korea to observe the 1990 Armed Forces' Day celebrations, the German Air Force chief of staff made an important statement concerning the transfer of Tornado ECR technology. He proposed two plans to Korea.

First, the Korean Government could send Air Force pilots to Germany, where the Germans would take responsibility for training these pilots in EW. The other plan was that if the Korean MND formally requested so, the Germans would be willing to send classified data on the Tornado ECR.

"We Must Prepare Now for Technology Acquisition in Preparation for USFK Withdrawal"

The German Air Force chief of staff also appeared willing to offer assistance to Korea as necessary in developing an employment system for the EW aircraft. Compared to their previous attitude, the new German position was quite epochal. Although the Germans did not openly request that Korea purchase the Tornado while making this offer, it is believed that deeply seated within this proposal by Germany was their intention to sell the aircraft to Korea.

The Korean MND is not formally expressing its position on the Tornado purchase issue. Rumor has it that in preparation for the future EW battlefield, the MND is currently deliberating between the U.S. F-4G and the German Tornado. This was evident in one question by a ROKAF official at the "Tornado ECR Briefing," which asked the briefers to compare the capabilities of the F-4G and the Tornado.

Nicknamed the "Wild Weasel," the F-4G displayed its power during the Gulf war. The F-4G, an F-4 mounted with EW equipment, is capable of both EW and ground attack.

If the government does not wish to purchase an EW fighter aircraft, then another plan also under consideration is to attach EW equipment to C-130 transport aircraft and employ those in the EW mode. The ROKAF, as far as EW equipment, currently possesses a "Simple Electronic Counter Measures Pod" (ECM Pod) which can neutralize enemy radar beams.

One reserve ROKAF officer emphasized, "Korea shed its blood for the United States during the Vietnam conflict, and during the recent Gulf war not only did we send money to cover war costs but we also dispatched a medical and transport team. There are not many countries which cooperate with the United States to the degree that Korea does. Even so, the United States, while selling jet fighters to Korea, has only provided the outer shells without the critical parts inside. Young Air Force officers, commissioned after 1970, are extremely resentful about such an attitude by the United States. Now is the time for our government, without consideration of U.S. feelings, to purchase weapons which meet our needs and prepare for electronic warfare."

The acquisition of EW fighter aircraft is a large-scale project which will consume billions of dollars. Not only that, there are many areas which must be considered, such as ROK-U.S. relations. Subsequently, this is not a matter on which a hasty decision can be made. Experts within the defense field note, "Simply securing EW fighter aircraft is not the only preparation which needs to be done. At least five years are needed for such areas as acquisition of employment technology and the development of technical expertise. Considering such contingencies as the withdrawal of USFK from Korea, it is not too early to start preparing even now."

Third Stage Development Starts on DRAM Chip

SK2703092891 Seoul THE KOREA DAILY in English 27 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] Scientists will begin next month the third stage of a development plan for a 64 mega-DRAM (dynamic random access memory) chip, the Ministry of Science and Technology has announced. The completion target is March, 1992.

Plans call for a preliminary design of a 64-mega DRAM, large hole wafer fabrication technology and photosensitive materials.

The ministry just has completed a second stage development of a 16-mega DRAM.

The fourth stage will begin in April 1992 and continue through March 1993. The goal is to develop a prototype 64-mega DRAM chip and key semiconductor manufacturing equipment.

It will take a total of 73 billion won investment during the third and fourth stages, the ministry said.

Burma

'Sources': PRC Fighter Planes Arrive in Rangoon

BK2703082991 Hong Kong AFP in English 0757 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, March 27 (AFP)—Tons of Chinese weapons, including fighter planes, have been delivered to the military junta in Burma, according to reliable sources living in Rangoon.

The arms, part of a multi-million dollar deal to remodernise the Burmese army, have been arriving by freighter over the past few months, the sources said here Wednesday.

One eyewitness reported seeing large military convoys carrying fighter planes leaving the port and driving north from the capital during curfew hours. But sources say the final destination of the Chinese-built planes was unknown. In Rangoon harbour, newly delivered Yugoslavian patrol boats have also been seen.

One resident of Rangoon, visiting the Thai capital, said that a good deal of the Chinese arms, part of a $900 million deal between the junta and the Chinese government, have been delivered. "And more are expected," said the resident, who asked that his identity not be revealed.

The delivery of the Chinese jet fighters, believed to be 12 F-6s and F-7s has already sparked fears in the camps of drug warlord Khun Sa deep in the almost inaccessible northern hills.

According to reports, Khun Sa's troops, who have been fighting Rangoon for control of their poppy-growing areas for over 40 years, have been digging heavily fortified underground shelters in preparation for strikes by the newly equipped Burmese Air Force.

Military analysts based in Bangkok say the Chinese arms deal, which includes tanks as well as fighter planes, has virtually transformed the Burmese Air Force overnight. "Certainly the F-6s will change things as far as the battle against the ethnic minorities go. It is a fighter perfect for ground strikes," said one analyst.

As well as the fighters the junta is believed to have ordered from China six 30-knot patrol boats, to add to those bought from Yugoslavia, 60 medium-range tanks, 25 anti-aircraft guns, shoulder-fired missiles and nine armoured personnel carriers.

Sources say that Burmese pilots have been undergoing training in China on how to fly the new jets but it is not clear when the new strike force will be fully operational.

Radio Reviews Military Operations in Country

BK2603154991 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] The Defense Services, joining hands with the people, launched Operation Thurein Tun and Operation Yan Naing Min in areas under the Northern Military Command, Operation Aung Hein Moe in areas in the jursdiction of the Northeast Military Command, Operation Kyaw Naing Soe in areas in the jursdiction of the Eastern Military Command, Operations Zwe Aung Hein and Nagamin in areas in the jurisdiction of the Southeast Military Command, and Operation Tin Min Kyaw in areas under the Southern Military Command. As a result, 1495 battles, including 158 major battles took place between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991. Altogether 475 defense services personnel laid down their lives for the country, while 964 persons were wounded.

In the battles, because of the combined efforts of the Defense Forces with full cooperation from the people, 1178 insurgents were killed and 315 were captured, together with 1085 assorted weapons including two 82-mm mortars, one 75-mm recoilless rifle, two 60-mm mortars, and one 57-mm recoilless rifle. Also captured were 765 rounds of heavy weapon shells; 100,198 rounds of small arms ammunition; 910 assorted magazines; 193 hand grenades; 926 assorted mines; 638 slabs of explosives; 603 detonators; about 184 feet of fuse; 45 assorted communication sets and walkie-talkies; 18 engines; 3,368 head of cattle; 12 mules and donkeys; two elephants; 48.31 kilograms of heroin; 948.28 kilograms of opium; 4.73 kilograms of cooked opium; 421.8 gallons of chemicals; 19,849.99 viss [one viss equals 3.6 pounds] of jade; one rice mill; 205 baskets [one basket equals about a bushel] of rice; 330 baskets of paddy; 27 motor vehicles; five bulldozers; five tractors; two motorcycles; one television set; 6,260 baht in currency; 1,558,193 kyat in currency; six sawing machines; 253.6 tons of teak; 804 teak logs; 596 teak door frames; 1,390 sawn teak; and five generators.

The Defense Forces in cooperation with members of the Peoples' Police Force and local people destroyed 1,951.14 acres of poppy fields.

During the operational period 589 insurgents surrendered together with 166 assorted arms.

In Burmese territorial waters, the combined Army and naval forces have been continuously patrolling the area with boats. Hence, 83 fish poaching vessels; 154 smuggling boats; and 1,586 poachers and smugglers were captured between 21 March 1990 and 20 March 1991. The estimated value of the captured vessels, machinery, and property is about 30.87 million kyats.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir: Australian Media 'Discrediting' Nation

BK2803101691 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0800 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has ordered that security measures at airports in Malaysia be tightened. [passage omitted]

The prime minister was also asked on Malaysia's relations with Australia. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said Kuala Lumpur still maintained orderly diplomatic relations with Canberra. He added that there was proof that certain sectors of the Australian media were deliberately discrediting Malaysia. [passage omitted]

Security Investigation Underway After Hijacking

BK2803064091 Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Malaysian Airlines, MAS, is highly concerned over the hijacking of an Airbus of its Singapore counterpart, SIA, on Tuesday [26 March] night. MAS has asked for a complete review of the security measures at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang. Its managing director Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman says the move is to check whether there are any weaknesses. He was commenting on the hijacking of the Singapore Airlines flight SQ 117, which departed from Subang on a scheduled shuttle flight to the island republic.

Meanwhile, police will investigate as to how the four Pakistani hijackers managed to bring into the plane certain types of weapons despite the strict security screening at the airport. This was stated by the director of internal security and public order, Datuk (Said Osman Badawi). He told reporters that the X-ray machines at the airport can detect any metal objects and yet the hijackers had managed to take such weapons aboard.

Singapore and Malaysia started to investigate the airport security today following the hijacking incident. Singapore officials said the four hijackers killed by commandos in a dawn assault yesterday were armed with knives, hand grenades, and explosives. The shuttle Kuala Lumpur-to-Singapore flight carried 128 passengers and crew, and the four hijackers. Police said the hijackers demanded the release of a number of people detained in Pakistan, including the husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Mahathir Orders Tighter Measures

BK2803072691 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0646 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 28 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed has ordered that security measures at airports in Malaysia be tightened without having to wait for the outcome of investigations into the hijacking of an SIA [Singapore Airlines] Airbus on Tuesday night.

Dr. Mahathir said Thursday whatever the findings, it was of utmost importance that internal security be intensified, especially measures at airports.

The prime minister was commenting on the hijacking of a Singapore-bound flight SQ117 by four Pakistanis 15 minutes after it took off from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport at Subang.

Transport Minister Dr. Ling Liong Sik on Wednesday announced that the government would set up a committee to investigate the incident after receiving the findings of a similar inquiry by the Singapore side.

Commandos later stormed the aircraft killing all four hijackers and rescued 114 passengers and nine crew members. So far, it has not been established whether the hijackers had explosives with them and how such items were undetected during pre-flight security checks.

PRC Becomes Largest Palm Oil Importer in 1990

BK2703040891 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0324 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—China emerged as Malaysia's largest importer of palm oil for the first time last year, according to preliminary statistics released by the Palm Oil Registration and Licencing Authority (PORLA).

Malaysia exported a total of 5.932 million tonnes of palm oil, 14.4 per cent more than the 5.177 million tonnes in 1989. Of the total, 5.827 million tonnes or 98 per cent was in processed form. China imported 798,142 tonnes, a hefty 63 percent increase from the 489,488 tonnes it imported in 1989.

China has always been a potentially big market by virtue of its huge population.

Strong economic growth resulting in higher domestic consumption of edible oils is understood to be the main reason for China's big jump in palm oil imports last year.

After China came Pakistan, which imported 690,307 tonnes.

India, once the leading importer, bought 529,487 tonnes from Malaysia in 1990, more than 90 per cent higher than the 276,826 tonnes it imported in the previous year.

Among other significant destinations of Malaysia's palm oil last year were the European Community (EC) and Egypt, accounting for 564,795 tonnes and 346,943 tonnes, respectively.

Some 770,000 tonnes of palm oil were sold to Singapore last year, but virtually all were re-exported to other countries.

Cambodia

Tie Banh on 'Root Cause,' Termination of Conflict

BK2803063691 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0457 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 28—Tie Banh, Politburo member of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defence, granted here Tuesday an interview to a Japanese television team (KTV) led by Mr. Akira Itoh who is on a visit to Cambodia.

Answering questions raised by the team, Defence Minister Tie Banh highlighted the latest military and security situation in the country and traced the root cause of the 12-year-old war to the genocidal Polpotists and other reactionary Khmer factions.

On how to stop the war in Cambodia, Defence Minister Tie Banh said: "If the Khmer opposition factions and the countries concerned want an end to the conflict, they must respect the right to self-determination of the Cambodian people, the sovereignty of the State of Cambodia, safeguard the Cambodian people's life, and prevent the return of the genocidal Pol Pot clique to power".

VODK Calls For Meeting of Coordinating Committee

BK2803040291 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 March 91

[Station commentary: "Only by Continuing to Put All Kinds of Pressure on Vietnam and Quickly Convening the Coordinating Committee of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia Can Vietnam Be Forced To Accept the Documents of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council"]

[Text] The international community continues to make efforts to promote a quick solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with various UN documents, particularly the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement. The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces welcome and express profound gratitude for these efforts. The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces fully and unreservedly support the above documents with goodwill to solve the Cambodian problem politically, and to quickly end the Cambodian people's suffering and restore peace and stability to the region.

This shows the full and sincere cooperation of the Cambodian people with the international community in solving the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively. Only Vietnam and the puppets and traitors propped up by Vietnam in Phnom Penh have refused to cooperate with the international community, carrying out diplomatic and military maneuvers in an attempt to destroy the documents prepared by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council [UNSC] and the United Nations to solve the Cambodian problem comprehensively and politically. This is the obstacle hindering a solution to the Cambodian problem until today. It is because the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors have opposed and refused to accept various UN documents, particularly the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

Therefore, to speed up a solution to the Cambodian problem, it is necesary to force Vietnam to accept the above documents by:

1. Continuing to relentlessly apply more vigorous pressure on Vietnam and its puppets, traitors to the nation, and Vietnam's lackeys, in every field.

2. Pushing for the quick convening of the Coordinating Committee of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia in accordance with the 23 December 1990 Paris statement to force Vietnam to accept the 28 August 1990 framework document and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

This is the most effective method of forcing Vietnam to end its war of aggression in Cambodia in accordance with the documents of the UNSC five permanent members.

VODK Reaffirms Adherence to UNSC Documents

BK2803044691 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "What is the Purpose of the Military Struggle of the Hanoi Vietnamese Enemy Aggressors"]

[Text] On 23 March 1991, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia and leader of the Cambodian national resistance forces, issued a statement informing the world that the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors no longer conceal from foreign observers and reporters the presence of Vietnamese Army units and the latter's activities on the battlefield in Cambodia against the tripartite national resistance forces. Vietnam has used infantry troops, artillery, tanks, and even aircraft against the Cambodian national resistance forces.

This is clear. Old and new Vietnamese aggressor troops recently brought in from Vietnam are currently waging war openly against the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people everywhere; it is like in September 1989. This shows that those fighting in Cambodia to this day are the same. It is still a war between the Vietnamese aggressor forces on the one hand and the Cambodian national resistance forces and the Cambodian people on the other. Evidence of this war is clearer in the eyes of foreign observers and reporters. The Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets, traitors to the nation, and Vietnam's lackeys can no longer cover this up.

What is the purpose of this military struggle by the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors? As the samdech president has pointed out in his 23 March 1991 statement, this is to prevent the puppet regime—which is corrupt to the bone and grasping for air—from disintegrating and to destroy efforts to solve the Cambodian problem comprehensively and politically by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the United Nations, the 28 August 1990 framework, and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement.

However, the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors certainly cannot achieve their maneuver. Everyone clearly realizes that over the past 12 years, Vietnam has done its best to solve the Cambodian problem through military means but have failed. On the contrary, Vietnam has been bogged down on the battlefield and thrown into an impasse, completey losing mastery and the initiative; it is moving toward defeat. At that time, Vietnam had the support of the Soviet Union and the Warsaw Pact allies, which are no longer behind it. The Soviet Union, which is in a serious political and economic crisis itself, cannot fully assist Vietnam. So, how long can the latter struggle on? It is clear that it is not for long.

The Cambodian people, the tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces, and the international community will continue to pressure Vietnam in every field until it fully and unconditionally accepts the 28 August 1990 framework and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement to solve definitively the Cambodian problem politically and comprehensively.

VODK Calls For Continued Pressure on Vietnam

BK2803072391 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Station commentary: "The International Community, Like the Cambodian People, All Demand That the Cambodian Problem be Solved in Accordance With the Framework Document of the Five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and Within the Framework of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia"]

[Text] The international community is currently striving to promote and demand that the Cambodian problem—which resulted from Vietnam's act of aggression and occupation over the past 12 years—be solved comprehensively and politically based on the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the 26 November 1990 draft agreement within the framework of the Paris international conference on Cambodia because people realize that this peace plan is just and most reasonable and the only one that can be realized. Therefore, people have raised their voices to demand that all parties involved in the Cambodian problem, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh puppets in particular, accept a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with the UN plan.

For example, on 15 March, (Namu Bani), Singapore's deputy foreign minister, appealed to Vietnam and the Phnom Penh puppets to achieve a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem by signing a peace plan worked out by the five UN Security Council permanent members. He stressed that the Cambodian peace plan prepared by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council is very clear. Vietnam's national interests would be achieved through Vietnam's quick signing of the UN plan. On 18 March, after talks in Bangkok, Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and Richard Solomon, U.S. assistant secretary of state, agreed in their support for the UN Security Council's five permanent members' plan to solve the Cambodian problem and that the Cambodian problem should be solved within the framework of the UN Security Council's five permanent members and that of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia [PICC]. These personalities stressed that the UN plan is the best for solving the Cambodian problem.

On 19 March, Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin told reporters that Thailand supports a quick solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with the documents of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and in accordance with the draft agreement for a comprehensive solution of the PICC. On 21 March, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said: We hope that all parties in the Cambodian problem, including Vietnam, quickly accept the framework document of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the draft agreement. We support talks between the PICC cochairmen and members of the Supreme National Council in order to create conditions for quickly reconvening the PICC.

As for the Cambodian national resistance forces, the Cambodian national government, and the entire Cambodian people inside and outside the country, they also fully support the UN peace plan. On 13 March, leaders of the tripartite Cambodian national resistance forces issued a statement reaffirming full support and assistance for the 28 August 1990 framework document of the UN Security Council's five permanent members, the 10 September 1990 Jakarta joint statement, the 20 September 1990 UN Security Council resolution, the 26 November 1990 draft agreement, and the 23 December 1990 Paris joint statement, and appealed to all parties to fully accept the above documents in order to quickly advance a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem in accordance with the profound aspiration of the Cambodian people for Cambodia to quickly regain peace and national independence.

On 16 March, Cambodian personalities and intellectuals staying in France held a special conference and issued a resolution voicing full support for various UN documents and appealed to the international community to continue pressuring Vietnam in every field to force it and the Phnom Penh puppets to accept a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem based on the five major UN documents.

Thus, only the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their puppets and lackeys in Phnom Penh reject the correct, just, and reasonable UN documents. This clearly shows that Vietnam and its puppets are obstacles hindering a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem. Therefore, the international community, the UN Security Council's five permanent members and the United Nations in particular, should take all kinds of effective measures to pressure and force Vietnam to accept the UN peace plan in order to quickly achieve a comprehensive political solution to the Cambodian problem.

Use of Aircraft Reported in Kampot Fighting

BK2803013091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] On 18 March, the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppets and lackeys gathered 300 of their soldiers from Phnom Penh, backed by two tanks and three aircraft, in an attempt to retake Roung Veng and Dang Tong from us. Upon arriving at Roung Veng, we ambushed them for one day and forced them to retreat. We killed 23 enemy soldiers, including a Vietnamese captain and a puppet lieutenant, and wounded 32 others; took a prisoner; and destroyed an 80-mm mortar, two 60-mm mortars, a military vehicle, and some war materiel.

On 13 March, our national resistance forces attacked and completely dismantled the village and commune state authorities of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppets and lackeys in Kandaol and O Krasa communes. We killed four and wounded eight enemy soldiers and destroyed some war materiel. We liberated six villages—Toek Kraham, Bos Trabek, Mean Rit, Bos Kroch, O Prey Thom, and Damnak Chambak—and freed six village and commune officials.

The next day, the Vietnamese enemy and puppets left Kampot in an attempt to assist their colleagues but were ambushed by us. We killed three and wounded six more enemy soldiers.

VONADK: Forces Liberate 14 Villages in Kampot

BK2803011291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] On 13 March, our national resistance forces attacked and completely dismantled the village and commune state authorities of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and their puppets and lackeys at Totoeng, Mean Rit, and Thmei communes in Tuk Meas District, Kampot battlefield.

After a one-hour battle, we killed 16 enemy soldiers, including a district official of Tuk Meas District, and wounded 16 others. We destroyed three B-40's, three light machine guns, four AK's, five SK rifles, a 60-mm mortar, two paddy mills, and some war materiel. We seized 15 AK's, 28 SK rifles, five AR-15's, and a quantity of assorted ammunition and war materiel. We liberated 14 villages—Prey Krang Khang Tbong, Prey Krang Khang Cheung, Krang Sbov, Salei, Krasang, Do Yay, Trapeang Neal, Sdok Thnaot, Phnum Toch, Damrei Leng, Tuol Khpos, O Kandal, Khcheay Khang Kaeut, and Khcheay Khang Lech—and freed 98 village and commune officials.

People Pledge Support for Kampot Liberation

BK2203033291 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 21 Mar 91

[Text] From the night of 2 March to 5 March, our Cambodian national resistance forces on the Kampot battlefield successfully attacked and liberated the Kampot District seat in Kampot Province and also liberated seven communes. This victory was due to the active cooperation of our people, Cambodian soldiers and militiamen, and also village and commune officials. Our people contributed to providing supplies and ammunition transport while Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local state authority personnel provided information, pointed the way, and directly took part in the battle.

Our people, compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local administrative staff are currently closely cooperating with our Cambodian national resistance forces and continue to fight the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators through every form, actively and vigorously. Our people pledge to fight until Kampot Province and our entire country and nation are liberated and the people can enjoy independence and peace again.

Our Cambodian national resistance forces appeal to our people, compatriot Cambodian soldiers, militiamen, and local state authority officials in Kampot Province, who are living under the barbarous grip of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators and puppet ringleaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, Vietnam's lackeys, to rise up and cooperate like compatriots in fighting the Vietnamese enemy aggressors and race exterminators in Kampot Province.

Only in this way can Vietnam's war of aggression and genocide in Cambodia over the past 12 years be ended quickly, all of us live and be reunited with our parents and families, and our Cambodian nation and people be spared all kinds of massacre and genocide at the hands of the Hanoi Vietnamese enemy aggressors and puppet ringleaders Hun Sen, Heng Samrin, and Chea Sim, Vietnam's lackeys.

Indonesia

Alatas Rejects East Timor, Gulf Comparision

BK2703130791 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0843 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Dili, East Timor, Mar 27 (OANA-ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas stressed that the efforts of a group of Western parliamentarians to revive the East Timor issue in the United Nations, should not be taken too seriously.

The foreign minister pointed this out here on Tuesday evening when asked by ANTARA to comment on the efforts of a group of MPs [members of Parliament] from several Western countries who visited U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Monday to revive the "rather obsolete" issue which for the past nine years had not been discussed by the U.N. General Assembly.

The MPs who wanted to revive the issue on a par with the Gulf crisis, had obviously failed to identify the problem of the former Portuguese colony with the Kuwaiti problem, namely the occupation of a sovereign country by another country. According to Alatas, he had many times stated in the U.N. as well as at press meetings that comparing the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait with the integration of East Timor to the Republic of Indonesia, was ridiculous. [Words indistinct], he stressed. He went on to say that what happened in the Gulf was a country invading another independent and sovereign country, occupying it by force of arms and even annexing it.

This act had been condemned by the whole world, because it was clearly a violation of the United Nations charter, the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and of the [words indistinct] conference.

What happened in East Timor on the other hand was of a different character, Ali Alatas said. East Timor was at that time a territory without self government, a colony in the process of decolonization by its former colonizer. This process of decolonization became totally confused when Portugal irresponsibly and without taking any follow-up steps left East Timor in August [word indistinct] while this territory was in the state of a civil war. Another fundamental difference, Iraq invaded and annexed Kuwait against the will of the Kuwaiti people. Indonesia on the other hand interfered at the request of the majority of the East Timor people to help solve the civil war problem and the decolonization process.

As such, the integration of East Timor was desired and requested by the East Timor people themselves after the decolonization process which was totally against the idea of an annexation of an independent and sovereign country, Ali Alatas asserted.

Article Assesses Relations With Kuala Lumpur

BK2303031691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Mar 91 p 5

["ASEAN Viewpoint" by M.G.G. Pillai]

[Text] The meeting last month in Jakarta between the Malaysian Prime Minister Dato' Seri Mahathir Mohamed, and President Suharto of Indonesia ostensibly was to talk about bilateral issues.

Newspaper, radio and television reports said it went off well, but the underlying reason for the visit was unmentioned. It was to restore a working cordiality between the two leaders that has not existed since Mahathir became prime minister in July 1981.

The affable, cordial relationship that had existed between successive Malaysian prime ministers since Tengku Abdul Rahman disappeared under Mahathir. Indonesian and Malaysian officials say the two men could not establish a working relationship. When they met in the Malaysian town of Tawau, after Mahathir became prime minister in 1981, they could not exchange more than pleasantries and officials had to come in to keep the conversation going.

Many theories abound, some convincing enough. Mahathir's aggressive, confrontational stance on international issues jarrred with Jakarta's reliance on consensus; as was Jakarta's uhnappiness at Kuala Lumpur's overactive support for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation; and of Malaysia's public statements on ASEAN and Indonesia, the most recent on the proposed East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), often without consulting.

The meeting in Bali last month was organised by the Asia Society of New York at which Asian leaders discussed ASEAN and the world economy. But the Malaysian and Indonesian foreign ministries had to walk the tight-rope for the two leaders to meet before the Bali retreat.

The two leaders agreed, in principle, to such issues as the tripartite growth triangle of Batam, Singapore and Johore, the future course of ASEAN and, even, of the EAEG. But the underlying difficulties, suspicions and second guessing of the other's intentions remain.

Malaysian-Indonesian ties, since 1957, have swung between extremes of warring enmity to bone-crushing friendliness. They are now not as good as they once were. The relationship between Indonesia and Malaysia rested on a presumption in Kuala Lumpur that Indonesia is the elder brother and Malaysia the younger; Jakarta rejects that, saying that the relations should be like those of twins. But both agree that they are wider in scope and intent, and more encompassing, than their relations with their neigbours.

Many problems hinder closer ties. The Malaysians are galled at the Indonesian perception that race and religion was not an ideal meeting ground for bilateral links;

Kuala Lumpur presumed, rightly or wrongly, that it could come closer to Jakarta because both are of Malay stock and are Muslims.

Bilateral perceptions in one capital are not what they are in the other, with Kuala Lumpur more defensive, and hurt, when they differ, than Jakarta is. Officials in the two countries are not as close to each other as they were only a decade ago. So, inevitably, they face more difficult, and different, problems in bilateral and regional relationships, and resolve it outside the camraderies of their officials which existed only a decade ago.

Kuala Lumpur is defensive whenever Jakarta is seen to be close to Singapore, and upset when Jakarta takes a trade or political stance that conflicts with its position. So, when Jakarta offered training facilities to Singapore and sold palm oil to New Delhi two years ago, Kuala Lumpur overreacted. There are other issues: the Kuala Lumpur perception that Jakarta leans more towards Singapore; Jakarta's refusal to allow more Malaysian Airlines flights; difficulties in importing Malaysian films and books, and the Malaysian-made Proton Saga motocars.

Bilateral relations, therefore, are not as smooth as leaders of the two countries could have wished for. At the same time, Malaysia often viewed bilateral and multilateral ties not on cold logic or negotiations but by its own presumptions and assumptions on what that relationship is, or ought to be.

When that relationship was in full flower, Malaysia and Indonesia secretly agreed to allow about 500,000 Indonesians to come into the country in the 1970s, with promises of early citizenship, to overcome a shortage of estate labour, and to increase the numerical strength of the Malays in the country.

That did not work out as well as Malaysian officials thought it would: far too many Indonesians took advantage of it amidst too little control. Besides, bringing in aliens, even if they are of the same race, to ensure racial balance is fraught with so many invariables that the result many not be palatable, as Singapore finds out over its decision to bring in large numbers of Chinese from Hong Kong.

Neighbours, often, are not close to each other. Relations between Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta also suffer from the Malay reluctance to confront. So, leaders in the two countries often express their discontent at the other in the obtuse, roundabout way, often out of context, in typical Malay form and style. While both speak the basic Malay language, the regional differences of speech are varied enough to cause misunderstandings when officials of the two capitals meet.

Twenty-eight years ago, they went to war after Jakarta objected to Kuala Lumpur's bringing Singapore and the British territories of Singapore, Sarawak and Sabah into its fold. (Singapore left after two unhappy years in the federation.)

When that was resolved they became so close that they often acted in tandem on national and international issues amidst an assumed special relationship, much to the annoyance of its neighbours. That assumption has now broken down, and is at the root of the present problems.

The common cultural, racial, linguistic, historical ties on which the two countries based their bilateral ties have not led to the informal union that both desire, or profess, partly because they differ widely in size, political and cultural attitudes. Their love-hate relationship is one that both are reluctant to admit exists. Each expects the other to support its position, on whatever issue, and is upset when it is not.

So, it was not surprising that Jakarta cold-shouldered Mahathir's proposal for the EAEG. Jakarta was upset that the idea was discussed first with the Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng, when he visited Malaysia in December, 1990, and not the ASEAN leaders; that they first heard of it not from the Malaysian foreign office but from a newspaper report; that Jakarta felt Kuala Lumpur was putting on the pressure to force it to accept the proposal before the ASEAN leaders had considered it first.

The proposal for the EAEG was first discussed in the Malaysian Cabinet on December 5 last year. The minister for primary industries, Lim Kheng Yaik, mentioned it to a reporter of THE BUSINESS TIMES, in which a report appeared the next day.

That was the first that the ASEAN ambassadors, and others, heard about it. The foreign ministry was caught flat-footed when the ASEAN ambassadors sought clarification. An aide-memoire was prepared. The minister for international trade and industry, Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz, who was in Germany, was shocked when she heard of it.

But when Datin Paduka Rafidah visited ASEAN capitals to discuss the proposal, the proposal she brought with her differed significantly from the aide-memoire. Jakarta was not pleased. Her statement, after her trip, that everyone but Jakarta agreed to the EAEG proposal, made matters worse.

Incidentally, no one in Wisma Putra admits responsibility for the aide-memoire. Then who wrote it? It suggests that the Foreign Ministry came into the picture only when the proposal ran into heavy weather in Jakarta. According to a rumours circulating among Kuala Lumpur's diplomatic community, Malaysia's "negotiating points" on the proposal were attached inadvertently to the aide-memoire to President Suharto.

Malaysia stumbled over the EAEG proposal. It was not thought out properly; too many assumptions were made; it was assumed that it would be readily accepted by everyone involved. But, as it turned out, it was not.

Japan, which would have been a major partner, is not keen. It is both an Asian and a world nation, and it would not, or could not, sacrifice one for the other. Indonesia has reservations about it. The United States and others fear it would be a trading bloc. Into this comes Kuala Lumpur's problems with Jakarta. This emphasizes, if nothing else would, why one should make haste slowly.

But the difficulty is that Mahathir wants Malaysia to be a high- profile country, reversing its policy of three decades. That brought it into conflict not only with Jakarta but elsewhere as well. The realisation has sunk in that it should not forge ahead as it has, collecting enemies along the way. The attempt to resolve problems with Jakarta is a step in that direction.

Laos

Further Reportage on 5th National Party Congress

'Unlikely Collection' of Guests Attend

BK2703135691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1238 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Vientiane, March 27 (AFP)—An unlikely collection of overseas guests, including delegates from China and the Phnom Penh Government it would like to see toppled, has descended on Vientiane for the Lao Communist Party Congress.

The Fifth Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Congress was opened Wednesday by party chief and Prime Minister Kaysone Phomvihan. He made a brief opening address from a stage facing the more than 500 delegates before launching into a major political report. But much attention in the hall focused on the foreign guests flanking the silver-haired, 71-year-old Lao leader.

Vietnam Communist Party Chief Nguyen Van Linh stood to Mr. Kaysone's right, while on the opposite side the diminutive Phnom Penh President Heng Samrin looked out over the sea of faces, in front of his own Prime Minister Hun Sen. Phnom Penh and Hanoi are Vientiane's top allies, and Mr. Kaysone is himself Vietnamese.

But the head table also included Chinese Communist Party Central Committee member Pu Chaozhu, separated only by the "red" Prince Souphanouvang from Mr. Heng Samrin. China has been looking to overthrow the Phnom Penh Government by arming the Khmer Rouge, the strongest of three allied Cambodian resistance groups. Besides having a seat on China's most powerful entity, Mr. Pu is also Communist Party Chairman in Yunnan Province, which borders Laos and Vietnam.

It was the first time the Chinese had been invited to an LPRP congress and follows a thaw in relations in the last two years, including a visit here in December by Prime Minister Li Peng. China regularly spits venom at Phnom Penh and its Vietnamese backers but the two sides have held at least two rounds of informal talks on the long civil war. Phnom Penh's negotiator at those talks, Deputy Foreign Minister Sok An, is here.

A Cambodian source discounted further contact and said his delegation was here only to attend the congress. His statement is disputed by many who believe senior officials of the three Indochina allies will meet to show solidarity on the Cambodia dispute.

The Soviet Union to the other major Communist Party represented here at a senior level, although in the unlikely person of a Communist from the beleaguered Baltic republic of Lithuania. [sentence as received]

M. Burokiavicus is a member of the Soviet Communist Party Politburo and a top party official in Lithuania, where nationalists are campaigning for independence after 50 years under Moscow's rule. Soviet sources said the official was expected to stay here another week but had no details of his agenda.

All these major guests were slated to address the congress, starting with Mr. Linh and Mr. Heng Samrin at a session off-limits to the press Wednesday afternoon.

Communists from France, the former colonial power in Laos, were not in attendance, but members of the French Embassy along with other diplomats from non-communist countries were invited to a party congress for the first time. They included the charge d'affaires of the U.S. Embassy, whose government spent much of the Vietnam war bombing sections of the Ho Chi Minh trail running through eastern Laos.

Lao officials have allowed the Western press a first inside glimpse of their country, in an apparent effort to soften its image in the outside world. Journalists from China, the Soviet Union, Vietnam and Cambodia also received accreditation to attend the congress, which follows the key fourth congress of November 1986, which launched Laos' gradual opening. The session is due to end Friday.

Announcer Details Seating Arrangements

BK2703164591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0110 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Today is an auspicious occasion to open the Fifth Party Congress. During this congress, a political report will be presented which is a common practice of each party congress. The report, to be presented by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, will review the outcome of the implementation of the resolutions of the Fourth Party Congress during the past five years and lay down the lines and policies for the future. In particular, it will touch on the line of restructuring and promotion of the popular democratic system. As we all know, a new party Central Committee is elected in every party congress. The party Central Committee elected by representatives at the congress will later open its plenary session to elect the party leadership, including general secretary, members of the Politburo, and secretary of the Central Committee. We are waiting to see who will be in the new party leadership.

Dear listeners, our entire party, Armed Forces, and people recently launched emulation campaigns to register achievements to welcome the Fifth Party Congress and the 36th founding anniversary of our party on 22 March.

The Presidium podium in this auditorium is decorated with the portraits of the leaders of the world revolution—Lenin and Carl Marx—and a sculpture of President Ho Chi Minh, the founder of the Communist Party of Indochina, which is the origin of the three fraternal parties namely the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, the Communist Party of Vietnam, and the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party, and the portait of General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan in addition to the national and party flags.

The Presidium seating consists of three rows with 24 seats. The Presidium of the Fifth Party Congress consists of 24. The auditorium is also decorated with red banners with white passages saying: "Long Live the Majestic Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP];" "Wholeheartedly Acclaim the Fifth LPRP Congress;" and "Enhance the Solidarity and Unity in the Entire Party and People." There are six slogans to be used for this congress. The slogan banners will be hung along major roads and offices in Vientiane capital. The six slogans are as follows:

"Long Live the Majestic LPRP."
"Strive To Build a Peaceful, Independent, Democratic, Unified, and Prosperous Laos."
"Firmly Adhere to Marxism-Leninism; Resolutely and Victoriously Implement Restructuring."
"Wholeheartedly Acclaim the Fifth Congress of the LPRP."
"Enhance Unity and Solidarity in the Entire Party and People."
"Long Live World Peace."

Today, we will broadcast live the morning session of this congress and the afternoon session of 29 March from 1430 hours.

The Presidium of the Fifth Party Congress consists of 24 persons. In the next few minutes, the Presidium members will arrive before the official opening of the congress. According to the schedule, the congress will start at 0830. The time now is 0817. Nine members of the presidium will sit in the first or front row, eight in the second row, and seven in the third row. Sitting in the front row will be General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan, President Souphanouvong, Phoumi Vongvichit, Khamtai Siphandon, and heads of the four fraternal parties namely General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh; Heng Samrin; Burokevicius, head of the CPSU delegation; and Pu Chaozhu, head of the CPC delegation. The eight people sitting in the second row on the platform are Phoun Sipaseut, Sisomphon Lovansai, Sisavat Keobounphan, Saman Vi-ngaket, Maichantan Sengmani, Oudom Khatthi-nga, Le Duc Anh, and Hun Sen. The seven sitting in the last or third row are Choummali Saingason, Somlat Chanthamat, Boualang Boualapha, Mrs. Onchan Thammavong, Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, Bounthan Souvannasouk, and Colonel Douangchai. There are altogether 24 members of the Presidium of the Fifth Congress of the LPRP. [passage omitted]

SRV's Nguyen Van Linh Speaks

BK2703161991 Hanoi VNA in English 1529 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, today delivered a greeting speech at the Fifth National Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party which opened today in the Lao capital of Vientiane.

Noting that the fifth Lao party congress is taking place after four years' implementing the renovation line and in a fast-changing world situation in which certain aspects are favourable while others are very complicated, Nguyen Van Linh said:

"This congress is a very important event in the Lao people's political life, and marks a new and steady step of development of the Lao revolution and the Lao People's Revolutionary Party towards their noble ideal and objective.

"... Realities have proved that the renovation line and policies pursued by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the Lao People's Democratic Republic are correct and conform to the practical conditions in Laos, meet the aspirations and interests of all ethnic groups of the Lao nation and constitute an important contribution to strengthening the position and might of the revolution of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, and a positive contribution to the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"... Over the past 15 years, the parties and peoples of Laos and Vietnam have done their best to consolidate and strengthen the special Vietnam-Laos special solidarity and friendship. That is an extremely valuable tradition and a priceless heritage left behind for us and the future generations by the late President Ho Chi Minh and so many generations of Vietnamese and Lao revolutionaries our two parties and peoples can rightly take pride of it. The Mekong River may run dry and the Truong Son Range may wear away, but the special Vietnam-Laos solidarity and friendship will last forever."

Nguyen Van Linh continued:

"The Communist Party of Vietnam is actively preparing for its seventh national congress. On the basis of a general review of the results of renovation conducted over the past four years, the seventh congress will develop, supplement and perfect the party's renovation policy, and adopt a programme of national construction in the period of transition to socialism, and a strategy for socio-economic stabilization and development in Vietnam till the year 2000, with a view to attaining the target of the first stage, namely firm stability of all aspects of life-economic, political and social, through comprehensive renovation, as pre-conditions for rapid development in the following stage.

"Faced with complicated developments in the world situation at present, the party and state of Vietnam have decided to pursue and enhance its foreign policy of independence, sovereignty and international solidarity, in order to contribute to the safeguarding of peace and the strengthening of friendship and cooperation with all other countries in the world.

"We are striving tirelessly to consolidate and develop our traditional friendship with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries.

"We will do our best to maintain and develop our special friendship and solidarity with the fraternal Cambodian party, government and people, and resolutely support a fair and reasonable solution to the Cambodia issue on the basis of respect for the independence, neutrality, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the right to self determination of the Cambodian people.

"The Vietnamese people set great store by their friendship with the Chinese people. We are striving to restore our friendship and cooperation with the Communist Party and the People's Republic of China.

"The Communist Party of Vietnam consistently supports the struggle of the working class and other strata of the population in other countries against the reactionary forces, for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

"The Communist Party and the State of Vietnam stand for broadening the friendly and cooperative relations with other developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Africa, and Latin America. We attach importance to developing our relations with the other countries in Southeast Asia so as together to build it into a zone of peace, stability, friendship and cooperation."

Radio on 27 March Proceedings

BK2803111191 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] will continue its work for the second day today. The Fifth Congress of the LPRP has been attended by 367 delegates representing more than 60,000 party members throughout the country and by 123 invited delegates.

On the first day of the congress yesterday, the delegates heard the political report of the LPRP Central Committee presented by General Secretary Kaysone Phomvihan. The political report reviewed the achievements and shortcomings in organizing the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Fourth Party Congress. At the same time, the report presented fundamental views of the party on the continued building and development of our people's democratic system in the future with the spirit of all-round restructuring.

During yesterday's afternoon session, the delegates heard the draft of the amended party regulations presented by Oudom Khatthi-gna, alternate member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau. After that, a number of local and foreign delegates took turns delivering their statements at the congress, namely, Khamsai Souphanouvong, deputy minister of economy, planning, and finance, who spoke on the restructuring in the economic field; Thongvang, secretary of the party committee of Saravane Province, who expressed his view on the restructuring in the agricultural sector in his province; and Cheng Sai-gnavong, head of the Mountainous Regions Development Enterprise, who spoke on the restructuring in forestry work.

The foreign delegates who had the honor of addressing the congress yesterday were Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and head of the CPV delegation, and Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee and head of the KPRP delegation. Both of them are here to attend the Fifth Congress of the LPRP.

Radio on 28 March Morning Session

BK2803111991 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] This morning, the Fifth Congress of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] carried out work for the second day after its official opening yesterday morning with the participation of more than 500 delegates, 367 of whom are full delegates representing more than 60,000 party members throughout the country.

At this morning's session the delegates heard statements by foreign and local delegates. The local delegates who addressed the congress were Phimpha Thepkhamheuang, delegate of Vientiane municipality, who spoke about the restructuring situation in the trading sector in the municipality; Bouasai Khammoundala, representing the Ministry of Industry and Handicraft, who talked about the restructuring in the industrial and handicraft sector and goods production; Bouathong, representing the Ministry of Communications, Transport, Posts, and Construction, who spoke about the restructuring in the work of the ministry; Thongsing Thammavong, representing the Supreme People's Assembly, who spoke on the consolidation and upgrading of the political system of our country in the past; Vongphet Saikeuyachongtoua, representing the delegates from Luang Prabang, who spoke about some lessons drawn from the building of the grass roots in Luang Prabang Province; Mrs. Thongvin Phomvihan, representing the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, who spoke on the topic "The Role and Responsibilities of Lao Youths in Contributiong to the Common Cause of Defending and Building the Country during the Period of Restructuring"; and Boun-gnang Volachit, representing the delegates from Savannakhet Province, who spoke on the implementation of political and ideological work in the province in recent years.

The foreign delegates who spoke at the congress this morning were Burokevicius, Politburo member and first secretary of the party Central Committee of the Lithuanian SSR of the USSR and head of the CPSU delegation; and Pu Chaozhu, member of the CPC Central Committee and head of the CPC delegation to the Fifth Congress of the LPRP.

Philippines

Senate President Questions Debt-Bases Linkage

HK2803024591 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Senate President Jovito Salonga says he will question the government's decision on the retention of the American bases in the Philippines. This was Salonga's reaction to reports that the Aquino government is linking the country's foreign debt with the retention of the military bases. He said he first must clearly understand the Aquino government's thinking before he takes any concrete steps.

Government Unsure Over Future of U.S. Facility

HK2803132491 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The government is at a loss as to what to do with the U.S. naval communication facility in San Miguel, Zambales, when it is turned over by the United States. The communication facility of over 200 hectares is being used by the United States to monitor satellites launched by the Soviet Union. According to one official of the Department of Foreign Affairs, who requested anonymity, the facility is located in a far-flung hidden area and cannot be converted into a training facility despite the fact that there are buildings there. This communication center is slated to be turned over to our government next month.

Military, Police on 'Red Alert' for NPA Day

HK2703044491 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 27 Mar 91 pp 1, 13

[By Victor Vega]

[Text] Police and military units have been placed on double red-alert starting today as the 22nd anniversary of the rebel New People's Army (NPA) on Good Friday, March 29, nears.

Communist rebels, by tradition, reserve their biggest attacks on or before the NPA anniversary, or the founding of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) on Dec. 26.

Reliable police intelligence sources revealed that the CPP will launch "Oplan Dikit-Pinta [Operation Stick-Paint]" all over the country with the theme "Isulong ang Ikalawang Dekada ng Pakikibaka". (Carry on with the second decade of struggle) The plan, police sources said, includes a comprehensive information and propaganda drive to disseminate the issues of the movement.

Documents seized by government agents in recent raids revealed that the Maria Lorena Barros Brigade of the NPA will launch the "Oplan Dikit-Pinta" in the Southern Tagalog region, while the Mariano Garcia Brigade will implement it in Cental Luzon. The two brigades have claimed responsibility for past ambushes and killings of soldiers and policemen in the two regions. The Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB), the hit squad of the New People's Army in Metro Manila, is expected by police to resume its street attacks during the week of the anniversary.

Meanwhile, intelligence agents said that top police and military officials are on the hit list of the communist partisans in Metro Manila. Among them are Interior and Local Government Secretary Luis Santos, Philippine National Police [PNP] Director General Cesar Nazareno, Chief Superintendent Marino Filart, Chief Superintendent Ernesto Diokno of the Western Police District, Chief Superintendent Vicente Vinarao of the PNP Criminal Investigation Service, a certain Sergeant Avando, and acting Transportation and Communications Secretary Pete Nicomedes Prado.

The NPA, which reached its peak of 25,000 fully armed guerrillas in 1985, is reported to have suffered reverses. Gen. Rodolfo Biazon, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the NPA now has only 17,000 members and is "fast declining."

The rebel army was established by a handful of guerrillas with 35 rifles led by Bernabe Buscayno alias "Commander Dante," in Tarlac on March 29, 1969. The Communist Party was reestablished a few months before, on Dec. 26, 1968, by a group of young professionals and students led by University of the Philippines Prof. Jose Ma. Sison, who split from the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas [Communist Party of the Philippines].

Biazon Clarifies 'Red Alert' Order

HK2803023091 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 27 Mar 91

[By Eloi Aquino]

[Excerpts] Armed Forces Chief General Rodolfo Biazon said he will not declare a red alert during Holy Week, but he allowed the field commanders to place their troops under maximum readiness for possible attacks that may be undertaken by the New People's Army [NPA] who will be celebrating their 21st anniversary on Good Friday. According to Biazon, it is not necessary to place the 180,000 men on red alert as there is no immediate and visible threat from any rebel group. [passage ommitted]

Biazon believes the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]- NPA continue to be plagued by internal conflicts that seriously affect their capability to launch extensive attacks against government forces. Biazon explained that the upsurge of communist rebel activities were limited to small parts of the country whereby the mountainous regions and advanced political infrastructure can be taken advantaged of. [passage ommitted]

Biazon has left the decision to the field commanders to declare red alerts in their respective units based on their assessment of NPA threats in their areas of responsibility. Meanwhile, Biazon said that because of the success of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] in the counterinsurgency drive, it can be hoped that the total security of the country can be obtained. Biazon made the statement following a command conference in Camp Aguinaldo participated in by top headquarters and field commanders.

PNP Chief Orders Officers To Flush Out Rebels

HK2703052191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Philippine National Police [PNP] Director General Cesar Nazareno ordered the PNP provincial command to flush out rebels in five barangays, but he advised his field officers not to declare these areas free from New People's Army control even after they are no longer controlled by the rebels. The communist guerrillas collect taxes from the residents of the barangays. Provincial commanders were requested to submit the list of rebel-free barangays as well as those where rebels continue to hide.

Radio on 'Clamor' in Senate for Ramos' Resignation

HK2803014291 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Mar 91

[By Jojo Ismael]

[Text] The clamor in the Senate for the resignation of Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos is gaining support. This was mentioned by a senator who requested anonymity. According to the senator, some of his colleagues in the Senate are discussing whether to make formal and final the request for Ramos' resignation with the opening of the congressional session in April. The senator also added that it is possible to question Ramos' conflict of interest, since he has now expressed openly his ambition to be the next president of the country under the Struggle of the Filipino Democrats and the United People Power Movement.

Senator on Growing 'Rift' Between Enrile, Laurel

HK2803024191 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] A rift is growing between Senator Juan Ponce Enrile and Vice President Salvador Laurel. This was declared by former Senator Arturo Tolentino, who said that both Laurel and Enrile have decided to become presidential candidates under the Nacionalista Party slate.

Meanwhile, the Nacionalista Party has still not decided whether Laurel or Enrile will be named the candidate for president in 1992.

Enrile Urges 'Strong' Electoral Reform Measures

HK2703014591 Manila PHILIPPINE NEWSDAY in English 26 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Senate Minority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile yesterday called on the Aquino administration to adopt strong electoral reform measures to prevent grand-scale fraud in the 1992 and future elections.

Enrile warned that a repetition of the massive cheating in past electoral contests exposed in a recent study by a group of University of the Philippines [UP] professors "will deal a death blow to democracy in our country."

The Senate leader expressed the hope that the current investigation, either by Congress or by the Commission on Elections (Comelec), of the findings of the UP study group that Philippine elections since 1984 had been tainted with fraud, will result in the adoption of electoral reforms in time for the crucial 1992 presidential, congressional and local polls.

Enrile said that in a democratic society, the authority of those who govern comes from the people, and therefore the legitimacy of those elected to public office must be beyond question. "I have long sought electoral reforms in order to ensure that this foundation of democratic rule is strengthened. It is one of the national aspirations that I have openly and strongly advocated and campaigned for in my role as the Senate Minority Floor Leader," he said. Enrile also urged the government to chart an independent foreign policy for the country, intensify the campaign against poverty and graft and corruption, and anchor the national destiny on a strong spiritual and moral structure in order to ensure national stability and growth.

The top opposition leader, a declared aspirant for the presidency of the Republic, spoke of his "vision of tomorrow" at the 71st commencement exercises of the Philippine Law School in Manila. Enrile also underscored the need for uncomprising adherence to the rule of law especially on the part of the leaders of the present government who, he noted, have "consistently circumvented and violated the provisions of the Constitution which they themselves crafted and asked our people to adopt and ratify."

Enrile likewise said official venalities in government flourish because some of the leaders refuse to subordinate their selfish personal interests to the national well-being. "Corruption in government thrives precisely because those who rule have regarded themselves as the protectors, not of the public interest, but of the vested interests of those who are related to them by blood or by political affinity," he said.

Cojuangco To Formalize Presidential Bid in Jun

HK2703014791 Quezon City MALAYA in English 26 Mar 91 pp 1, 8

[By Rolando Puaben]

[Text] Ceby City—Eduardo Danding Cojuangco Jr. said Monday his entry to Partido Pilipino, [Pilipino Party] a newly formed political party expected to back his presidential bid, will likely be formalized in June.

In a multi-sectoral dialog held here, Cojuangco expressed his willingness to join Partido Pilipino, but is still awaiting the party's invitation. "It has been promised me a long time ago, unfortunately it hasn't come yet. Probably it will come in June," he said.

Cojuangco, who earlier confirmed at a dialog with students of La Salle University in Manila his intention to seek the presidency, again reiterated his intention to run in the 1992 elections set for May 11. He said that "if they (Partido) pick me as their standard bearer, then that's the time that I would run," he said.

Although his eyes are set on the presidency, Cojuangco said he is willing to give up his aspiration in favor of a united opposition candidate to be pitted against the administration.

Even as Cojuangco expressed his willingness for a common standard bearer for the political opposition, another frontrunner in the presidential race, Senate Majority Floor Leader Juan Ponce Enrile (NP) [Nacionalista Party] said in an interview Saturday that those who would want to be the opposition's official candidate must join the Nacionalista Party. "We are the opposition party. No less than the administration recognized our status when it invited us (NP solons) to the National Security Council meeting," he said.

Cojuangco criticized the administration of his estranged cousin, President Aquino, for what he said was its lack of economic direction which he said has caused the ranks of poor Filipinos to swell to as much as 1.2 million yearly. He also blamed the Aquino administration's "vindictiveness" against the Marcoses and their former associates for its dismal performance in office.

To alleviate poverty, Cojuangco said, government should have motivated "the principal character in development and recovery process—the Filipino entrepreneur."

Manglapus Signs Yen Loan Package With Japan

HK2703044591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 Mar 91 p 8

[By Rexie M. Reyes]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus and Japanese ambassador to the Philippines Toshio Goto signed yesterday the final agreement on the 17th yen loan package amounting to $900 million.

The loan was signed just a month after Japan committed its $1.3- billion pledge for the second pledging session of the Philippine Assistance Program.

Goto, who noted the speedy finalization of the agreement, said the funds will be used to help improve the country's balance of payments position and ease the budgetary constraints.

"The operation this time was indeed exceptionally fast as we usually need a couple of months from commitment to the signing," Goto stated. He added that a part of these funds will be disbursed within the month to overcome the current economic difficulties facing the country.

The loan package is the "largest annual package ever pledged in a single year," Goto said.

"These measures and gestures, which I may describe as extraordinary, demonstrate our unchanged support for the nation-building efforts of the Philippine government and Philippine people," Goto emphasized.

The 17th yen loan package consists of 14 project loans and three program loans. The program loans are quick-disbursing assistance intended to meet immediate obligations.

The program loans include the fisheries sector program co-financed with the Asian Development Bank [ADB], the road and road transport sector program also co-financed with the ADB, and the environment and natural resources sector adjustment program co-financed with the World Bank.

The project loans, meanwhile, consist of 14 projects aimed primarily at upgrading roads, bridges, ports, rural electrification, education and transportation in Manila and other areas in the Philippines.

The loan package is highly concessional with maturities ranging from 25 years for program loans and 30 years for project loans. The interest rate was pegged at 2.7 percent annually with the procurement of goods "generally untied."

Embassy sources explained that the term "generally untied" means the purchase of goods is not limited to the donor country, Japan in this case, but could be made wherever, these goods are available.

Goto asked the Philippine government to use the aid "in a most appropriate manner."

The government of Japan is expected to bring in additional funds of about $1.8 billion to the Philippines over the next two years, Department of Financial sources said.

Thailand

Army Bombards Burmese Guerrilla Strongholds

BK2803013191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] The Thai army launched a furious artillery and aerial bombardment against ethnic Wa guerrilla and drug kingpin Khun Sa strongholds inside Burma.

The strikes yesterday by the Third Army Region were along the Thai-Burmese border in Chiang Mai Province, police said. The Thai military bombarded areas occupied by ethnic Wa guerrillas and Muang Tai Army troops loyal to Khun Sa, police said. Casualty figures are not available.

Three OV-10 counter-insurgency aircraft from Wing 41 in Muang District of Chiang Mai and two helicopter gunships from Lop Buri Province bombed the bases and an artillery barrage for two hours, from 3 P.M. to 5 P.M., police said. People in Fang and Mai-Ai districts heard the bombardment. The artillery and aerial bombardment against the two Burmese rival minority groups took place because they refused to move away from the border.

During the bombardment, there were no reports of retaliation, police said. Three villagers were killed and eight others wounded by a stray shell which smashed into a small island in the middle of the Kok River in Chiang Mai's Mae Ai District on Sunday. The shell was fired during fierce fighting across the border in Burma between the two rival groups, police said.

Soldiers and army trained rangers on duty were ordered on full alert along the border last night to face possible attack and to prevent the two rival groups sending men across the border to cause trouble on Thai soil, police said.

The army of notorious warlord Khun Sa—indicted on drug trafficking charges last year by a US court—and the Wa army or United Wa State Army are locked in a battle for control of the narcotic trade.

200 Villagers Demonstrate for Military Protection

BK2803032791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Mar 91 p A5

[By Dom Suwawan in Chiang Mai]

[Text] About 200 local villagers rallied in Mae Ai district of Chiang Mai province on Tuesday to call on authorities to increase security following recent clashes between two Burmese ethnic forces which resulted in the deaths of four Thais and the injury of 10 others, police said yesterday.

The Mong Thai Army of opium warlord Khun Sa and the United Wa State Army have been fighting for control over the rugged Doi Lang mountain range along the Thai-Burmese border near Mae Ai. The range is considered one of the most important trafficking routes for heroin and black market goods moving between Thailand and Burma.

Pol Maj Gen Watthana Bunnak, commander of the Zone 3 Border Patrol Police (BBP), told rallying villagers that the border task force will closely guard their security. He said those living in dangerous areas will be evacuated, but added: "The situation is not that serious."

Deputy Chiang Mai Governor Chamnian Sasibut on Tuesday visited the border area and those injured by the spillover from the fighting. After the explosion of two mortar shells on Sunday near Ban Thadon in Mae Ai, about 16 families were evacuated from two villages near the border. Some families, however, refused to leave the villages. The rallying villagers dispersed after Pol Maj Gen Watthana's address.

Fighting between the two ethnic groups reportedly continued yesterday and Thai Border Patrol Police fired smoke bombs as a warning for them to withdraw from the border area. An informed source said a group of Border Patrol Police were reportedly assigned to ask the two fighting forces to withdraw from the Thai border area.

On Tuesday night, United Wa State Army representatives reportedly visited Mae Ai Police Station and said that they will withdraw their troops from the area provided that Thai troops do not open fire on them.

An informed source told THE NATION that Third Army Region soldiers yesterday asked for more air support and artillery from the Army Operations Centre.

Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Charoenchit na Songkhla has ordered all provinces that border on Burma to be on alert after the clash of the two groups. Fighting between the two groups has been heating up since the middle of this month.

Spokesman on Plan for Border Team With Laos

BK2803033791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Mar 91 p A4

[By Thana Puphat]

[Text] Thailand and Laos will set up a joint technical team to survey disputed border areas in Uttradit and Phitsanulok provinces to try to demarcate the boundary between the two countries following a complete troop withdrawal by Laos on Friday, Supreme Command spokesman Lt Gen Narudon Detpradiyut said yesterday.

Lt Gen Narudon told THE NATION the technical team would be similar to the one set up by Thailand and Malaysia that is in the process of drawing a clearcut borderline in an effort to settle longstanding territorial disputes.

"The Thai-Lao team will compare maps and try to demarcate the boundary between the two countries, which has virtually been non- existent on these parts of the frontier," he said. But Narudon said both sides had not set a time-frame for completion of demarcation.

At a press conference at the Supreme Command yesterday, the military spokesman said a joint committee would verify the pull- backs on April 2-4 after Laos completed its troop withdrawal from the disputed areas on Friday. Narudon said Thailand, which completed withdrawing its troops and removing landmines from the disputed areas on March 19, also asked Laos to clear thousands of landmines it planted in the disputed areas.

The Lao military has asked for extra time to pull back its troops from the disputed areas, reasoning that difficult terrain did not allow the use of trucks to transport its troops and weapons out of the areas.

Thailand and Laos engaged in a bloody struggle over the 80-square-kilometre border area located between Ban Rom Klao in Phitsanulok's Chat Trakan district and Ban Bo Tan of Laos' Sayaboury province in 1987-88. A standoff between Thai and Lao armed forces continued at the disputed area and in two other areas in the border provinces of Uttaradit and Loei, although no border incidents have been reported since a ceasefire was implemented in early 1988.

An agreement between Thailand and Laos to pull back troops along the entire border as a gesture of goodwill was reached during a visit to Laos by Thai Army Commander in Chief Suchinda Khraprayun March 11-12.

Narudon said the Thai government welcomed Laos' proposal to set up a national-level committee to handle wider bilateral issues, particularly economic cooperation, following the easing of tension along the border. But the Thai-lao Border Policy Committee, jointly chaired by chiefs of the two armed forces, will be restructured and continue to exist, Narudon said. The committee is responsible for negotiations on border diputes, crossborder trade and Lao refugees.

'Insurgents' Flee Into Laos Ahead of Army Sweep

BK2703062691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 27 Mar 91 p A3

[Text] Nan—Thai troops were yesterday approaching the largest communist base in this northern province as insurgent families fled a major crackdown into neighbouring Laos, military sources said.

The troops advanced past the front of the Ban Kong base in Bo Klao subdistrict, located some 300 metres from the Thai-Lao border, and were preparing for an assault on the camp, which is on the top of a steep 2,000-metre hill, the sources said. They said a central committee member of the Communist Party of Thailand [CPT] and some other senior CPT members had been living at the camp.

The sources said the central committee member, identified only as Comrade Lungsin, had sneaked across the border into Laos with members of 18 insurgent families and there were signs they left the base in a hurry. The fleeing insurgents were about three kilometres inside Laos yesterday, according to the sources.

The military sources said the escaped insurgents were only CPT remnants in Nan who were receiving financial support from a CPT member, identified as Comrade Din, who is now believed to be living in Hong Kong.

Reports that there had been secret contacts between Thai troops and rightwing Lao troops about plans to capture the fleeing Thai insurgents could not be confirmed.

The military sources said two Thai soldiers were slightly injured when a land mine went off as the government troops were closing in on the communist base yesterday. A Thai soldier lost a leg Monday when a booby trap exploded, accoding to field reports.

Paper on Plans for Mekong River Border Bridge

BK2803035591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Mar 91 p A4

[By Kunlachada Chaiphiphat]

[Text] Thai and Lao authorities will have to resettle villagers living in areas where the planned Mekhong "friendship" bridge is to be built by November so construction can begin as scheduled by the end of this year.

At a meeting of the project's coordinating committee in Bangkok last Tuesday, Thai, Lao and Australian officials agreed to move the residents, an official in charge of the Mekhong bridge from the Australian Embassy, Sam Zappia, told THE NATION on Tuesday.

According to an Australian report, up to 80 hectares of land on the Thai side and up to 15 on the Lao side will have to be expropriated to make way for the bridge, which is scheduled to be completed by mid-1994. More than 500 families are now living in and near Ban Chommani village on the Thai side. "So far everything has been working out on schedule," Zappia said.

The 1.17 km-long bridge, located between the northeastern province of Nong Khai and Laos' Tha Naleng province, near Vientiane, will carry two lanes of road traffic while leaving room for a future railway with tracks down the bridge's centre. The $30-million (Bt750 million) project is being funded by the Australian Development Cooperation Programme to Thailand and Laos and administered by the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau.

Sources at last week's meeting said it would probably take Thai authorities longer than their Lao counterparts to acquire the land because the area on the Thai side was far more populated.

Recently villagers from Ban Chommani complained that provincial authorities appraised their property much lower than the market price. The villagers said authorities were offering them Bt60,000 for a rai of land although the market price had risen to 1.5-2 million baht per rai since the announcement of the bridge's construction was made in 1989.

Last week's meeting was held to identify areas where the respective governments could help during the construction period. The executive authority for Laos is the Ministry of Communication, Transport, Posts and Construction while on the Thai side it is the National Energy Administration.

Zappia said his government would call for tenders by the end of June to select at least five Australian companies for a short list of contractors and choose a final contractor for the construction in September. Local construction firms will be hired to handle sub-contract work.

EC Envoys Call On Prime Minister 22 Mar

BK2403085491 Bangkok TNA in English 0334 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] Bangkok, Mar. 23 (OANA-TNA)—EC envoys Friday expressed their appreciation to Thailand's positive move toward democratic system, Government Spokesman Ladawan Wongsiwong said here.

The EC envoys which included Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and Greece, paid a courtesy call on Thai Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at the Government House Friday.

Mrs. Ladawan said the Thai prime minister told the EC envoys that Thailand had returned to normal situation. Anan was quoted as saying that the Thai Government had a strong intention to do everything for restoring a full democratic system into the country. There would soon be a general election. Thailand now was in a process of drafing the constitution, he said.

In the meeting, Anan also urged the EC envoys to find such a compromise that would find GATT's [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] talks ending with a solution, the government spokesman said.

Three Suspects in Assassination Plot Surrender

BK2803055691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Mar 91 p A2

[Text] Three Young Turk officers allegedly involved in the alleged 1982 assassination conspiracy gave themselves up to police yesterday, chief investigator Pol Maj Gen Thanu Homhuan said.

Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Thanu said Maj Gen Phirat Sawamitwat, Col Kampanat Ketwiriyakan and Col Phanlop Pinmani turned themselves in at the Dusit District police station and were questioned for about an hour. Their surrender brought to 15 the number of suspects in the case in police hands so far. The 12 others have been granted bail.

Forty-three people have been implicated in the alleged assassination plot case, which partly led to the downfall of the Chatchai government last month. Military leaders who ousted prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan in last month's coup accused him of trying to protect Maj Gen Manun Rupkhachon, his close aide and a key suspect in the case.

Thanu said the information provided by the three Young Turk (Class Seven graduates of the military academy) officers was "very useful." Thanu, who had vowed to wrap up the investigation by the end of this month, said the probe might be "a little bit" delayed.

Apart from the 43 suspects, police were said to be looking for Muanchon Party leader Chaloem Yubamrung for allegedly bribing or forcing some suspects to reverse their testimony. Thanu said he had proposed that the Police Department set up a committee to investigate the charges against Chaloem.

Thanu said some suspects had submitted their complaints on February 14 to former prime minister Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, Army Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, former justice minister Uthai Pimchaichon and well-known Magsaysay lawyer Thongbai Thongpao. He quoted their complaints as saying that they were forced by Chaloem to reverse their confessions made with a former investigating committee supervised by Assistant Police Director General Bunchu Wangkanon.

Thanu claimed that all suspects and witnesses questioned recently confirmed their testimony, made to Bunchu's committee, that the alleged assassination plot had targeted former prime minister Prem Tinsulanon, former army chief Athit Kamlang-ek and a Royal Family member.

Chaloem had strongly denied the military's charges that the alleged assassination conspiracy had targeted a Royal Family member. He publicized a tape-recorded interview of two suspects who denied that a Royal Family member was a target and claimed they had been forced to give their previous testimony. Chaloem, who served as PM's Office minister and deputy education minister in the Chatchai administration, is still at large.

A source said police had concluded the investigation and would forward the probe to Police Director General Pol Gen Sawat Amonwiwat on April 1. The source said police were ready to file lawsuits against the 43 suspects after questioning more than 100 witnesses and 16 suspects.

NPKC To Use Outside Labor if Unions Strike

BK2803021191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] The National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] has threatened to bring in outside labour—probably soldiers—to do the jobs of any workers staging a rumoured slowdown in protest against the military's sweeping ban of 133 state unions.

But unionists yesterday remained resolute with a leading workers' representative saying: "Don't bully us."

In the eye of the gathering storm is the Government—which says workers have a right to a union and which yesterday talked to their representatives, but could make little headway. Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchupan says: "The Government is in the middle of the NPKC and the workers."

The issue of outside workers is traditionally one of the most provocative in industrial relations. The NPKC's threat to bring them in follows widespread rumours of a slowdown by state enterprise labour unions in protest against the controversial move to have them axed.

National Peace-keeping Council deputy chairman Suchinda Khraprayun said yesterday the NPKC was ready to fill the spots if anyone engaged in a slowdown. Reconfirming the NPKC's intention to exclude state enterprises from coverage of the Labour Relations Act, Gen Suchinda said state enterprise labour unions should be separate from private firms' unions.

A group of state enterprise labour leaders met Mr Michai yesterday to discuss the thorny issue. After two hours of talks the two sides were no closer to a solution. State enterprise labour leaders yesterday reaffirmed they could not go along with the move to outlaw them.

Niwat Nakasuwan of the Telephone Organisation of Thailand labour union said state enterprise workers could not accept the NPKC's move. There were insufficient grounds to remove the unions from the existing labour law, he said. "I asked minister Michai during the meeting what was the reason used for disbanding us and he told me the idea came from another party," he said. Mr Niwat said there were 133 state enterprise labour unions and only 10 staged strikes. "We do nothing wrong. Don't bully us. We will certainly not accept the issue," he said. Mr Niwat said the existing labour law was perfect and it empowered authorities to deal with strikes if necessary.

However, Mr Michai said he tried to find the best solution for all parties involved. He said he had assured the labour leaders they would certainly have the basic right to form a union and the right to bargain.

Report on Interview With NAP's Chawalit

BK2803022591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 91 pp 1, 3

[Report on interview with Chawalit Youngchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, by Banyat Thatsaniyawet and Phichai Chuansuksawat on 27 March; place not given]

[Text] New Aspiration Party [NAP] leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut yesterday said the National Peace-keeping Council (NPKC) should concentrate on solving the problems causing a "parliamentary dictatorship" and then step down as soon as possible.

In an interview with the BANGKOK POST, Gen Chawalit said he fears the preoccupation over changes in the constitution—the separation of powers—will mean a continuation of the vicious circle that has plagued the Thai political system for decades. Although emphasising that his "younger brothers" in the NPKC are genuine in their intentions, the former army chief said he had advised them to "choose their steps carefully."

Asked if the NPKC leadership could assume the administration of the country as Gen Kriangsak Chomanan did in 1978, Gen Chawalit said: "Don't let me comment whether they will do it or not. But I have already warned before. In truth, they say the way to make the Army a guarantor for the country is to do it until the vehicle you are riding is tired and then steps down. Like getting down from a white horse but not changing to ride a tiger. Because if you ride the tiger there will be problems. But believe me, you can remain on the white horse if you do what the people want. I think that my younger brothers already have headaches. But I think that in their hearts their intentions are genuine. They are determined to solve problems. What I have warned is that they must choose their path carefully."

Gen Chawalit said he is "afraid" the country is going through the same vicious circle—the drafting of a constitution, the formation of a government followed by a coup by a dissatisfied military. "I am afraid. Aren't you afraid? Because all this time this circle has occurred. How many times has this occurred? How many constitutions have we had? We have a constitution, an administration, then the military seizes power, then we draft another constitution and so on. How many times has this occurred? We are still in this vicious circle?" he said.

Gen Chawalit said Thais have already accepted the NPKC as having "sovereign power" because when it seized power, there was no opposition. "The only thing for the NPKC to do is use its authority to create things that the people want. What do the people want?"

The NAP leader said that the NPKC should examine what is "unequal" in the country and solve it. "If there are laws which are not right then it should change them. If there are faults in the electoral system, change them to make them more just so as to gain the people's confidence. Don't become involved in separation or not. For what? We should use the power to destroy each mechanism which is dictatorial. I am afraid we will forget other matters and then we will be back in the same circle again. We are talking today, March 27, 1991. But then in a number of years we may be back here talking about it again. Why has it come back to this? This does not solve the problem."

Gen Chawalit reiterated his warning of the possible adverse and irreparable damage to the country in adopting an untested administrative system—the separation of powers. The former army chief said he did not understand all the "confusion" and comments linking him as being supportive of such a system. He said that the monarchy has no connection with either a parliamentary or separation of powers (presidential) system of government.

Gen Chawalit said that the separation of powers system is not new, adding that such a system has been adopted in other countries. He said the key element of both systems is which institution should hold the balance of power. In the presidential system, it is the president, while in the parliamentary system, it is the parliament.

The NAP chief asked that if the separation of powers system is to be adopted in Thailand, then who would hold the balance of power? "Since our country is different to other countries, we have a monarch and when we use the separation of powers we can't use this system because we don't have a system where the monarch is joined in the administration. Therefore, we need someone to hold the balance of power. Who will that be? That will probably have to be the senate. But if we use separation, we must then have the senators and don't you think that would be confusing? If you let the senators hold the balance but they are (still) part of the parliament, isn't it? This is the main problem which we have not discussed."

Asked to comment on the suggestion that a group of senators would be chosen from people from various professions, Gen Chawalit said: "But who chooses?" He said that if the selection is to come from this process one needs a fully developed system of political parties, labour unions, teachers unions and farming organisations.

Cabinet Approves Fund To Fight Opium Production

BK2703002591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Mar 91 p 6

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday approved budget funds to help prevent hilltribe people growing opium. The money for various official agencies will come through allocations this year and next.

The projects are part of a master plan for community and environmental development and control of narcotic crops in the highlands from 1992 to 1996. The plan was drafted by the National Security Council, the National Economic and Social Development Board, the Interior Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, the Education Ministry, the Public Health Ministry and the National Environment Board. It will tackle all problems connected with the highlands, including hilltribe people, occupation of forests, destruction of the environment and growing of narcotics.

The master plan has the following major principles:

—Organisation of administrative regulations, establishment of villages and farmland for highland communities. Introducing development activities so that the communities can help themselves without becoming a a burden on society.

—At the level of detail implementation there will be surveys to find the basic economic and social information. The Cabinet will also decide where the hilltribe should live and from which area they are to be evacuated.

—This consideration depends on three factors—the reality of the area, official regulations and necessity of conserving natural resources.

The project to set up hilltribe villages, which is to begin next year, needs to be implemented quickly so the problem can be lessened and later solved. A fund of 94.54 milion baht from the fiscal 1992 budget has been approved for the purpose.

Two urgent projects also have to be implemented this year to contain the problem. One is to prevent entry of and repatriate hilltribe people from other countries and the other is to survey land and analyse the economic and social structure s of hilltribe people in Chiang Mai.

Paper Details Regional Oil Exploration Plans

BK2503020591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 25 Mar 91 p B1

[Text] The PTT Exploration & Production Co Ltd (PTTEP), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Petroleum Authority of Thailand, is planning petroleum exploration and production in the offshore area overlapped by Thailand, Cambodian and Vietnamese territory as it speeds up its expeditions into regional areas.

Company president Dr Thongchat Hongladarom told THE NATION that although political conditions in Cambodia are far from peaceful, it is possible for PTT Exploration & Production's exploration plans to go ahead with a Vietnamese partner but without waiting for a Cambodian partner. He envisaged that the operation, similar to the Joint Development Area between Thailand and Malaysia, will be based on the principle of the operational costs and benefits being equally split into three.

But since Cambodia is not ready to participate in the investment and a truly representative Cambodian government has yet to be settled, Thailand and Vietnam will be entitled to retain the expenses from their investment in the joint development area, including interest payments or risk premiums, he explained. During this period, a fund, deducted from expenses and risk premium, will be set aside for Cambodia, which may send a representative acknowledged by the rival factions, to join the exploration in a passive manner. Once a legitimate regime in Cambodia is established and recognized by the international community, it will be entitled to the fund, which can be used for further investment in the venture. Then the three countries will go ahead with full cooperation to equally share the burden and benefits of the joint petroleum exploration and production in the joint development area

On a bilateral basis, it might be difficult to operate the Thailand-Cambodian development area, eastward of Block 5/27 where PTT & Exploration and Production holds a petroleum concession. It is believed that the joint development area between Thailand and Cambodia has high potential for a commercial operation.

As for the Thai-Vietnamese joint development area, it was agreed during the Chatchai administration that both countries would cooperate in the joint development of petroleum resources. But with a change of government, PTT Exploration & Prouction will ask for permission from the new administration to enter the joint petroleum exploration with the Vietnamese.

Thongchat said PTT Exploration & Production is also interested in investing in Vietnamese territory, where a concession has been granted to a Western oil company. He said PTTEP is interested in forming a venture with the Western oil company which has conducted seismic surveys and found potential petroleum reserves. This concession, Thongchat said, is close to the Bongkot field in the Gulf of Thailand, where it is possible to link together a natural gas transmission pipeline system. "This makes us confident that this investment will provide us with security of supply," he said.

In Burma, PTT Exploration & Production has already formed a joint venture with Unocal of the US to explore in Block F. The joint venture is called PTTEP (Burma) Co. In addition, PTT Exploration & Production is also interested in acquiring a concession in the Moh Ta Ma area, which will prove to be a very important energy resource for Thailand in the future because of its proximity.

Under the plan, the company will lay a 500-kilometre natural gas transmission pipeline to the power generation plant at Si Nakharin Dam. To ensure continuity of supply, it is necessary that the company be granted the concession, instead of Thailand having to buy natural gas from Burma.

If settled, this venture will require at least US$1 billion in investment. The Burmese authorities estimate that the Moh Ta Ma reserves of natural gas amount to 3.6 trillion cubic feet. Earlier press reports indicated that Shell, Total, British Gas, Unocal and Nissho Iwai were interested in this concession. However, to gain a foothold in Burma, good government-to-government relations are required. PTT Exploration & Production would like the new joint ventures to start this year for concessions offshore of the South of Burma.

On the domestic front, PTT Exploration & Production has conducted a seismic survey in the Bongkot field and data is being processed in Singapore. It is estimated at this point that the reserves might reach 2.4 trillion cubic feet, higher than the original estimate of 1.8 trillion cubic feet.

Production in this field will start at 350 million cubic feet a day. The earliest starting-up period is June 1993, sooner than the original schedule of December 1993.

In the B-5/27 section off the Prachuap KhiriKhan coast, the company has also conducted a seismic survey along a line stretching for 3,500 km. By the end of this year, drilling may start.

Vietnam

Le Quang Dao Departs for USSR, Romania 26 Mar

BK2603154491 Hanoi VNA in English 1452 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—A National Assembly delegation led by Chairman Le Quang Dao left here today for official friendship visits to the Soviet Union and Romania.

It was seen off by Vo Chi Cong, president of the State Council, Nguyen Huu Tho, vice-president of the State Council; Nguyen Khanh, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers; Phung Van Tuu, vice- chairman of the National Assembly; Vu Khoan, deputy foreign minister; and others.

Soviet and Romanian Ambassador R.L. Khamidulin and Cristian Mocam were also present.

Arrives in Moscow 27 Mar

BK2703154091 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—A delegation of the Vietnam National Assembly led by National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao, vice president of the State Council and member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, arrived in Moscow this morning for an official friendship visit to the Soviet Union.

Do Muoi Receives Czechoslovak Ambassador 22 Mar

BK2603050291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] On 22 March, Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received (Jan Gonzor), ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic to Vietnam, who paid a courtesy call on the chairman. Chairman Do Muoi had cordial talks with Ambassador (Jan Gonzor).

CPV Greets Fifth Party Congress of Laos

BK2703094691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] Dear comrades, on behalf of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] and the Vietnamese workers class and people, we would like to convey to the Fifth Congress of the glorious Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], and through the congress to all the LPRP cadres and members and the fraternal Lao people, our profound sentiments and warmest greetings. A faithful and outstanding party of the former Indochinese Communist Party founded by President Ho Chi Minh, the LPRP headed by esteemed Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan has led the Lao people to overcome numerous ordeals and difficulties, scoring successes for the revolution, and achieving national liberation, thus ushering Laos into an era of independence, freedom, and social progress.

Over the past 15 years and more, under the beacon of resolutions of the LPRP congresses, the Lao revolution has scored many great achievements in the cause of national construction and defense. Particularly, since its fourth congress the LPRP, learning from experiences of the revolution and firmly grasping the developmental tendencies of the era as well as creatively applying the popular principles of Marxism-Leninism, has promptly set forth lines and policies on comprehensive renovation and has scored great, significant achievements. These achievements have contributed to enhancing the position and strength of the revolution of the three Indochinese countries, thus positively strengthening the world people's struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. The CPV and people are very pleased to see these achievements and sincerely wish the LPRP and the Lao people ever greater successes.

The Fifth LPRP Congress is of special significance in the political life of the party and people of Laos at the present situation in the region and the world. The congress will adopt various resolutions aimed at perfecting the party lines and policies on renovation, building and developing the people's democratic system, and advancing the Lao revolution a step further. We believe that under the beacon of the congress' resolutions, the Lao revolution will effectively bring into full play all potentials of the nation and enjoy favorable factors of the times in order to triumphantly build a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, and prosperous Laos, thereby contributing worthily to the cause of peace, friendship, stability, cooperation, and development in the region and the world.

Dear comrades, during the past several decades the militant solidarity, special friendship, and comprehensive cooperation between our two parties, states, and peoples have consistently strengthened and developed. This is a very fine tradition fostered by the intelligence, energy, and flesh and bone of many generations. This tradition has become a precious treasure of our two nations and the source of strength and the factor guaranteeing successes for the revolution in both our nations.

Implementing President Ho Chi Minh's teachings, the CPV and Vietnamese people, more than ever before, pledge to do their best to maintain and consistently develop those special, pure relations to strengthen unity between the two parties and nations forever on the path toward prosperity, happiness, and social progress.

On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere and profound thanks to the LPRP and the Lao people of various nationalities for their lofty, valuable assistance and support to the Vietnamese party and people.

We wish the Fifth LPRP Congress splendid success, and for the special friendship and solidarity between our two parties, states, and peoples to be ever fruitful and to last forever.

Do Muoi Receives French Socioeconomic Minister

BK2603164491 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 26—Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here today Tony Dreyfus, minister delegate attached to French Prime Minister Michel Rocard in charge of socioeconomic affairs.

Speaking to his guest, who is now on a visit to Vietnam, the Vietnamese leader expressed thanks to the French Government and people for their multi-sided assistance to Vietnam. He reaffirmed Vietnam's determination to carry forward the renovation and expressed his wish for the further development of the cooperation between the two countries. Chairman Do Muoi also asked Minister Tony Dreyfus to convey his friendship greetings to Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

For his part, Minister Tony Dreyfus highly valued the initial results recorded by Vietnam in its efforts for renovation and reaffirmed that the French Government has attached importance to the development of the France-Vietnam relationship.

French Minister Concludes Visit

BK2803090391 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—Tony Dreyfus, minister delegate in charge of socio-economic affairs attached to French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, yesterday concluded a four-day visit to Vietnam.

The French minister delegate was accompanied by senior officials of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Foreign Trade, and representatives of some big companies.

While here, the delegation held talks with Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister. The two sides discussed measures to accelerate the relations between the two countries, particularly in the economic field, and compared notes on regional and international issues of their mutual concern.

The delegation met with senior officials of the Ministry of Trade, the State Planning Commission and the Commission for Cooperation and Investment.

On March 26 and 27, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi and First Vice Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet received the delegation on separate occasions. During those receptions, the two sides affirmed their determination to develop the two countries' relations to a new phase to meet the aspirations of the two governments and peoples.

Radio on 'Complicated' Post-Gulf War Problems

BK2703170691 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The war in the Persian Gulf ended nearly a month ago, but post-Gulf war problems are huge and complicated. Our radio has this comment on the continued tension in the Gulf:

In Iraq, immediately after guns had fallen silent, internal problems cropped up with mutinies staged by opposition forces against President Saddam Husayn. In the face of this situation, the Iraqi president had declared martial law in Baghdad and set up a new Cabinet. For all this, tension has kept mounting with clashes continuing on Monday inside and around Baghdad and the southern city of Basra. Fighting is threatening to plunge the country into a civil war. In Kuwait, the government of Prime Minister Al-Sabah has resigned in the wake of its failure to solve postwar problems in that country.

At the United Nations, the United States has sent the permanent members of the Security Council a draft resolution on a permanent cease-fire in the Gulf. This document, however, did not include the question of Palestinians living in Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The American bidding in Kuwait is comparable to another seething campaign with perhaps more efficiency than the U.S. military operations in the Gulf. The United States has drawn the lion's share in lucrative post-Gulf war contracts in Kuwait. For these papers, the U.S. has set a 48-hour deadline for any allies' applications to reconstruction contracts in Kuwait. This very strict time limit is a hard nut to crack for all business sectors of these allied countries and prompted the disappointment of many others. The British trade and industry secretary said that the time limit was so short that it was hard to believe. If the Gulf war had brought the U.S. and allies to the same trench, it then started driving a wedge among them. Their partnership is said to be smoldering with low-key yet deep resentment. Post-Gulf war developments are shedding light on the strained relations among the regional countries. The Iran-Iraq ties are reported to be deteriorated after the Shi'ite leader Ayatollah was held hostage by Iraqi President Husayn. [sentence as heard] The post-Gulf war turn of events is disappointing people now that Kuwaitis are manhandling those Palestinians who supported President Saddam Husayn. In a nutshell, the conclusion of the Gulf war has not put an end to regional tension and other problems.

Current developments in the Gulf continue to give rise to public concerns. People hope that regional countries do their best to restrain and resolve their internal affairs positively. That probably will be the only way to solve problems and bring about a plentiful and happy life to the people.

Paper Views Party Congress of Security Force

BK2603092991 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 23 Mar 91

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] The HANOI MOI newspaper carried an article on the party congress of the Hanoi People's Security Force.

Concerning the work of national security and defense, the author wrote: The compilation of opinions from party congresses of 40 grass-roots organizations and the speeches at the congresses showed the characteristics of democracy, honesty, and the willingness to contribute to the success of the Seventh National Party Congress.

Issues which were mentioned by many people were the national security and defense work and the task of building good security forces in every field. All representatives agreed not to accept the multiparty system and political pluralism but said that the undertaking of renovation and party adjustment must be done urgently, because only the party purification and the enhancement of the leadership capacity can heighten the party's reputation with the people. Together with getting rid of people who are corrupt and degraded, it needs to strengthen the cadre system from the central to the grass-roots level and to deploy people with good capacity, morality, and reputation in management positions. The election in the party should be renovated and should not consider organization structure more important than standards. Not doing that, elected party members will not be able to perform the management task.

Navy Party Organizations Hold Congresses

BK2703092891 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 25 Mar 91

[Text] As of 10 March, 21 grass-roots party organizations directly subordinate to the Navy's party organization had finished holding congresses. During these congresses, 8,833 suggestions were made by party members and 550 others were made by various mass organizations to the five draft documents of the Seventh National

Party Congress. The congresses also elected more than 200 delegates, representing the collective intellect and voices of the grass roots, to attend the seventh congress of the Navy's party organization.

Since 10 March, the Navy's party committee and various propaganda and training and organization organs, together with many offices and divisions concerned and the Congress Organizing Committee, have prepared the issues to be discussed at the Navy's party organization congress. A total of 25 important questions relating to the five draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress have been readied for discussion. These questions focus on the chapters of the draft documents dealing with the transition of socialism in Vietnam, national security and defense, socioeconomic targets, and party members.

Communications Ministry Holds Party Congress

BK2703151091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 26 Mar 91

[Text] The party organization of the Ministry of Communications, Transportation, and Post recently held the first round of its 11th congress. In the spirit of renovation and with a high sense of responsibility, delegates enthusiastically made numerous suggestions to the party's draft documents. They held that the problems and role of communications, transportation, and post were not satisfactorily dealt with in these documents. It should be clearly pointed out that these sectors are the mainstay of the country's infrastructure and their duty is to serve the entire socioeconomic system. A policy should be adopted to protect the local shipbuilding industry; the facilities of the civil aviation service should be renovated; investment for highway and railway transportation should be increased; and domestic telecommunications should be developed.

The congress elected 16 officials and two alternate delegates to attend upper-level party congresses.

Minister Visits Youth Force on Anniversary

BK2703134091 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 91

[From the "Press Review" for 26 March]

[Text] On the occasion of the 15th founding anniversary of the Assault Youth Force on 28 March, Mai Chi Tho, member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and interior minister, paid a visit to the Assault Youth Force of Ho Chi Minh City. The minister stressed: Members of the Assault Youth Force should not limit themselves to carrying out economic tasks; they should pay special attention to the youth movement's work and to fostering young people's ideals. The force should launch another youth movement in Ho Chi Minh City.

Border Defense Corps Reviews 1990, Plans for 1991

BK2603111691 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 Mar 91

[Text] The Border Defense Corps Command held a meeting recently for the whole force to review the national border defense work and to plan their 1991 work.

In 1990, the situation on the border continued to grow more complex. The border corps were always heightened by the revolutionary conscious spirit and drilled in the struggling will. They uncovered and made arrests in 70 cases of cross border espionage, organized seven campaigns to crush criminals, dealt with 2,200 cases of law violations, arrested 72 armed bandit groups, and confiscated several different kinds of weapons.

To complement the Directive No. 278 of the Council of Ministers, the border corps discovered more than 960 large cross-border smuggling operations and recovered for the state hundreds of tonnes of copper, and thousands of tonnes of materials, goods, precious stones, and antiques worth tens of billions of dong.

'Heavy Downpour' Causes Damage in Khanh Hoa

BK2603093491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Mar 91

[Text] A tropical depression and cold spell caused a heavy downpour in the whole province of Khanh Hoa. On 16 March, the rain level was from 207 to 420 millimeters caused flooding of thousands of hectares of winter-spring rice and vegetable crops at their harvesting time, and more than 70 percent of shrimp farms along the coast were damaged badly.

Heavy downpours broke Quyet Thang dam, many sections of waterworks, and the Khanh Son drain. It gushed down one span of the Que Cat bridge, and carried away sand and land of many sections of railway and roads on the No. 1 National Route, interrupting traffic in Cam Ranh. Right after the downpour ended, the provincial people's committee directed sectors and localities to urgently clear the railway and roads in Cam Ranh.

On 17 March, in many localities in the province, peasants tried to harvest rice and vegetable crops, and to drain out water in the late winter-spring rice crop in order to limit damages caused by the natural calamity.

The waterworks and agriculture sectors also sent many cadres to the localities, especially Cam Ranh, to get more information about the damage so they can plan measures to overcome it. They also prepared fertilizer, materials, and labor to reconstruct canals so the people can go ahead with the summer-fall rice crop with 12,500 hectares and plant thousands of hectares of vegetables to compensate for the heavy downpour.

Australia

China Protests Over Air Agreement With Taiwan

BK2803070491 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 91

[Text] The Chinese Government has protested to Canberra over an agreement signed earlier this week which paved the way for direct air links between Australia and Taiwan. A Radio Australia reporter in Canberra, Richard Andrews, says the Chinese Embassy there has complained that the Australian Government did not seek Beijing's prior approval for the agreement.

An embassy spokesman said the establishment of direct flights to Taiwan was a political issue related to China's sovereignty.

The Australian foreign affairs minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says Canberra has kept China closely informed of developments on the matter. Noting that Australia's one-China policy recognizes only the Beijing government, Senator Evans said that the Australian and Taiwanese flag carriers—Qantas and China Airways—will not be allowed to fly the route.

Battle Said Looming on Uranium Policy Moves

BK2703105091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0753 GMT 27 Mar 91

[By Jack Taylor]

[Text] Sydney, March 27 (AFP)—A new political battle was looming here over moves officials confirmed Wednesday are now under way to abandon Australia's existing restrictions on uranium mining and develop new overseas markets.

A spokesman for Primary Industries and Energy Minister John Kerin confirmed he had told the governing Labor Party it should abandon its present policy and set no limit on the number of new mines. The existing policy allows mining on three named sites and uranium sales within defined limits.

In a separate development, leaders of Australia's conservative opposition have spent this week in Taipei exploring means of circumventing a ban on uranium sales to Taiwan. Taiwan is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which is a government prerequisite for purchasers of Australian uranium yellowcake.

Beijing, which has already expressed its concern to Australia about its increasing business contact with Taiwan, could be expected to protest even more vigorously if Australia started selling uranium to Taiwan.

Mr. Kerin's recommendation for a more liberal policy is certain to rekindle the bitter factional feuding which has characterised the uranium debate here since the mid-70's. His submission to Labor's Uranium Review Committee referred to "inherent contradictions in our current policy" and urged that future proposals for mining be considered on their merits.

Although Mr. Kerin, an influential right-wing minister, is likely to win substantial support for his recommendation, the whole issue is set to be the most contentious to be debated by Labor's biennial conference in June.

Labor sources say left-wing Labor MP's, including three on the review committee, remain bitterly opposed to any liberalisation of the policy and most want the party to phase out uranium development altogether.

A copy of Mr. Kerin's submission was leaked to and published by a national newspaper Wednesday. His staff said the leaking of the letter was regretted, but confirmed its content. It said existing policy did nothing to meet concerns about the environment, health and safety, nuclear non-proliferation, aboriginal welfare and returns to the community.

A new policy with strict safeguards would provide a basis "for maximising the benefits to all Australians" from its abundant uranium resources, without compromising the legitimate concerns of the vast majority of party members, the letter said.

Mr. Kerin argued also that Australia's existing policy made no contribution whatsoever to nuclear safety, whereas its active international participation would enable it to play "a very useful role."

In the meantime, opposition leader John Hewson and foreign affairs spokesman Robert Hill are leading a business delegation which has been afforded high level receptions by Taiwanese Government ministers and businessmen this week.

As well as trying to help overcome Taiwanese import barriers to Australian agricultural products, the delegation has been discussing uranium supply.

One obstacle is that Australia does not have an embassy in Taiwan because of its "one-China policy," recognising only the People's Republic of China. But it does have an unofficial trade mission, the Australian Commerce and Industry Office (ACIO) which concluded negotiations this week on direct air links between Australia and Taiwan.

The opposition is looking at the potential for Australia to make use of a bilateral safeguards agreement on which the United States bases its uranium sales to Taiwan.

The opposition initiative is being seen here as a clear indication that if Mr. Hewson's conservative coalition wins power at the next election in two years, it would use the ACIO to develop uranium sales arrangements with Taiwan.